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## In the Name of God

### Part I: Highlights

In your report, please provide highlights (1 or 2 pages):

- **The main elements of the review process at the country level**
- **Progress, challenges and delays in the implementation of Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), based on statistical data, as well as factors that affect the success or failure of progress in critical areas.**
- **How the government has paid attention to the special needs of women and girls from marginalized groups in line with the principle of leaving no one behind.**
- **Two or three examples of successful good practices and lessons learned that may be relevant to other countries, preferably focusing on actions with transformative potential, taking into account the interlinkages and synergies between BPfA and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**
- **Things that the country needs support in terms of finance, capacity building, policy consultation, data collection and analysis, technology, participation, and others.**

Since its establishment, the Islamic Republic of Iran has paid special attention to advancing women's affairs and improving their rights and status. The Islamic Republic of Iran has achieved significant progress in enhancing the dignity, honor, and social and human character of women, and extensive measures have been taken to improve women's health, education, employment, and security, combat the violence against them, and increase the social presence of women through assigning women to decision making positions.

With the establishment and strengthening of **the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs** as a national authority on women and family in the Islamic Republic of Iran, this institution has been working in line with the fulfillment of its inherent mission of planning and policy-making, observing, monitoring and evaluation in this field. Based on this, during nearly half a century after the birth of the Islamic Revolution, we witnessed the scientific, personal, moral, political and social growth of women in the Islamic Republic in all fields of medicine,

technology, education, the formation of special institutions and centers for women, the formulation and approval of numerous laws and regulations regarding women's rights, and the creation and expansion of various social and political currents with the aim of defending women's rights, managerial and executive positions, legislation and policy making, etc.

Focusing on the three issues of “**education**”, “**gender justice**” and “**gender budgeting**” in the country, especially in recent years (the timeframe of this report), has been auspicious in the following main points of BPfA for Iranian women and girls. In addition, it is worthy to mention the special support to empower female heads of households by implementing the “**Sustainable Family-oriented Business Plan**” which covers from training to product sales and empowering educated young girls by implementing the “**Kamand Plan**” which includes from creative idea and innovation to entrepreneurship.

In the national “**Sustainable Family-Oriented Businesses Plan**”, female entrepreneurs support the employment of female heads of households from the beginning to the end so that female heads of households can achieve sustainable employment. According to the latest statistics, in the first year of implementation, over 3,000 female heads of households have reached stable employment. Creating a “**Guarantee Fund for Head of household women**” which grants employment loans to head of household women in the 5<sup>th</sup> income deciles of the country (vulnerable strata) without the need for a guarantor and up to 200 million Tomans.

It should be mentioned that despite all the efforts, the level of progress of the Islamic Republic of Iran, like other countries in the world, has not been the same in the various main points of BPfA, and in some cases, more attention and efforts must be made to achieve the goals, and unfortunately, in some other cases, due to the lack of information and the complicated process of accessing statistical data, as well as the lack of gender-based categorization of data, women's achievements are not reflected as they should be. Moreover, it is worthy to mention the complex process of legislation and the lengthy bureaucracy of accessing information as a common obstacle of all countries in this field. Providing financial resources is one of the challenges of achieving the goals and one of the serious obstacles in the implementation of the programs, especially in the economic bottlenecks in Iran which have been aggravated by the illegal sanctions imposed by the government.

In the end, it is worth remembering that in order to improve the process of realizing the goals of international documents, especially in women's issues, such

as the goals contained within the Beijing document, the sustainable development document, etc., the following must be paid attention to: the cultural, historical and religious characteristics of societies in formulating strategies, comprehensive and accurate attention to the root causes of the incomplete implementation of the Beijing Action Plan at the global level, paying attention to the necessity of strengthening, supporting and maintaining the sacred institution of the family by guaranteeing the full participation of women in private and public decision-making, considering coercive measures and unilateral or multilateral sanctions as an obstacle in order to improve the status of women, and special attention to the plight of women and girls in occupied territories and war situations in order to identify new and complementary perspectives, goals and strategies in the field of gender balance and women's equality in a way that provides the ability to have a comprehensive solution; **The same solution created by everyone and useful for everyone.**

## **Part II: Priorities, Achievements, Challenges and Failures**

**1- During the last five years, what have been the most important achievements, challenges and setbacks in the progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment?**

**In your report, please explain why your country considers these issues important, how it has addressed them, the challenges encountered, and the factors that have led to progress or setbacks in each case. If possible, please provide data to support your answers (3-5 pages).**

**The most important achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran in recent years (supplementary report in Appendix 1)**

- Eradication of illiteracy among Iranians aged 10 to 49 with a rate of 97%
- Reducing the literacy gap between men and women to less than 6.1%
- Reducing the literacy gap between urban and rural areas to 11%
- Erasing the gender gap in education at both primary and secondary levels
- Women comprise 60% of the students in public universities
- Women comprise 40% of the faculty members
- Women comprise 60% of the teachers
- Women comprise 24% of the inventors

- Increasing the life expectancy of women to 78 years
- Reducing the maternal mortality rate to 23 per 100,000 live births
- Reducing the infant mortality rate to 8.2% per 100,000 births
- Reducing the death rate of children under 5 years to 14.2% per 100,000 births
- 95% of births in the country are performed by obstetricians and gynecologists
- Women comprise 40% of specialist doctors and 30% of subspecialist doctors
- Women comprise half of the country's medical staff
- The share of women's employment in the private sector in 1401 SH (March 2022 - March 2023 AD) was about 74.5%
- The share of women's employment in the public sector in 1401 SH (March 2022 - March 2023 AD) was approximately 25.5%
- The share of women's employment in the service sector in 1401 SH (March 2022 - March 2023 AD) was approximately 57.5%
- The share of women's employment in the industry sector in 1401 SH (March 2022 - March 2023 AD) was approximately 25.3%
- The share of women's employment in the agricultural sector in 1401 (March 2022 - March 2023 AD) was approximately 17.2%
- Social security insurance coverage for rural women and nomads with an occupation
- Social security insurance coverage for rural housewives with three children
- Social security insurance coverage for female heads of household
- Requirement for female advisers to the government organization to hold the equivalent position of deputy minister or director general
- 49% rate of female voters in the presidential elections
- Over 1121 female judges
- 30% share of women in the managerial positions
- Appointment of women in high decision-making councils
- 37.1% increase in the number of medals won by female athletes in the world championships in 1402 SH (March 2023- March 2024 AD)
- 149.1% increase in the number of medals won by female athletes in Asian Games in 1402 SH (March 2023- March 2024 AD)
- 203% increase in the number of medals won by female athletes in international competitions in 1402 SH (March 2023- March 2024 AD)
- 934,589 female professional athletes
- Presence of women in 103 international seats in world sports federations

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- Over 23,543 female authors and 1051 female publishers
  - Activity of 2,336 responsible women managers in the country's media
  - 31.5% increase in the participation of women in information technology
  - Reception of 114 national awards and 128 international awards from prominent festivals by female filmmakers.
  - The presence of female filmmakers and actresses in 45 international festivals as the head of the jury
  - women presiding over “the Department of Environment” for 4 terms
  - Allocating a quarter of the country’s environmental management positions to women
  - Allocating 40% of the deputy positions in the Department of Environment to women

### **The Most Important Envisaged Challenges and Solutions:**

The implementation of **unilateral coercive measures** by the United States during the last four decades against the Islamic Republic of Iran has violated the fundamental rights of the Iranian people, especially the right to life, the right to safety and health, the right to development and other economic, social and cultural rights in a wide and discriminatory manner and has caused “irreparable” human and financial damages. These actions are clearly contrary to the United Nations Charter, the standards of international law and international human rights. After visiting Iran, the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, has outlined some “deadly” and “fatal” effects of the coercive measures on the rights of the Iranian people, especially women and children under sanctions. In recent reports, especially considering the Covid-19 pandemic crisis, she pointed out some of the negative effects of these measures on the fundamental rights of the Iranian and in numerous statements and interviews has requested the governments that imposed sanctions, especially the United States of America, to reconsider the implementation of unilateral coercive measures, especially in the context of the pandemic. (Appendix 2)

Some examples of illegal, cruel, and criminal unilateral coercive measures by the United States that have especially and doubly affected women, children, and more vulnerable groups of people include:

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- 1- Sanction on the importation of medicine;
  - 2- Sanction on pharmaceutical equipment as well as equipment related to anesthesia, respiratory devices, endoscopy, CT scan, dialysis, treatment and control of diabetes, electroshock, digital radiology, ultrasound, kidney transplant, heart disease, ophthalmology, larynx examination and special dressings, laboratory equipment and the negative impact of sanctions on the performance of hospitals during the Covid outbreak.
  - 3- Preventing Iran from using the World Bank loan even during the Covid outbreak;
  - 4- Banning Zoom in Iran even during the Covid outbreak;

These sanctions have had harmful consequences in violating the fundamental rights of the Iranian, which according to the emphasis of the “Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights”, the following consequences are among the impacts of these illegal measures:

- 1- Death of patients with chronic diseases due to limited access to treatment;
- 2- Mental harm to patients due to lack of access to medicine;
- 3- Violation of the right of access to food;
- 4- Violation of the rights of children, women and immigrants;
- 5- Lack of access for Doctors to scientific information related to the corona virus;
- 6- The further suffering of foreign nationals living in Iran, especially immigrants;
- 7- Deprivation of many Iranians from the right to study in foreign universities;
- 8- Violation of the rights of Iranian citizens by sanctioning natural and legal persons.

The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken into account the very destructive effects of these coercive measures in all processes related to the formulation and regulation of laws, policy regulations and executive measures in order to reduce the extent and layers of unilateral sanctions that have been intensified in the past years and has devised empowerment support programs for vulnerable strata in the form of various plans, especially for women and children.

From this point of view, the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, as the body in charge of women and family, is serious about eliminating this deficiency through the adoption of the following: **mandating the executive bodies of the country to submit an annual report** on the progress of women in Iran based on the approved indicators of gender justice, forming **the secretariat for the comprehensive statistics system** and activation of 8 specialized working groups under this secretariat, approval, implementation, preparation and compilation of **the plan of the comprehensive statistical system of women and families**, compilation of **the statistical yearbook on women and families**, **compilation of an atlas and mapping the statistics of women and families** at both national and provincial levels, as well as briefing executive managers on the manner of submitting women information.

With a review of the history of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and its failure due to the incorrect approach taken by the said document on placing the full burden of the budget for the implementation of the goals on the shoulders of the governments and the inability of the governments to provide such financial resources, the role of the private sector in providing the appropriate budgets for the realization of the sustainable development goals was highlighted so to cover the deficit of MDG in this way. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, **women budgeting**, which is one of the main conditions for improving the status of women, is also included in the 6<sup>th</sup> Development Plan, and on this basis, besides receiving centralized and special budgets for women under the approved head titles of the national budget, the main approach of the National Women's Authority, in this regard, is focused on trendsetting, concentrated policy on eliminating gender gaps, and inter-institutional network cooperation (Memorandum of Understanding) to provide financial resources.

**2- During the last five years, what have been the five main priorities for accelerating the progress of women and girls in your country through laws, policies and/or programs?**

- Equality and non-discrimination based on the law and access to justice
- Quality education, lifelong training and learning for women and girls
- Eradication of poverty, agricultural productivity and food security
- Elimination of violence against women and girls
- Access to health care for all women
- Political contribution and representation

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- The Right to work and rights in the workplace (e.g. gender pay gap, occupational segregation, occupational upward mobility, job creation)
  - Women's entrepreneurship and companies
  - Unpaid care and home businesses / balancing work and family (such as paid maternity leave, paternity or parental leave, care services)
  - Gender-appropriate social support (such as universal health care, cash transfers, pensions)
  - Basic services and infrastructure (water, sewage, energy, transportation, etc.)
  - Strengthening of women's contribution to guarantee environmental sustainability
  - Gender-appropriate budgeting
  - Digital and financial inclusion for women
  - Reducing disaster risk and building gender-responsive resilience

**3- During the last five years, what specific measures have you taken to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of marginalized groups of women and girls?**

- Women and girls who live in remote and rural areas
- Native women and girls
- Women and girls are marginalized due to race, ethnicity and/or caste
- Religious minority women and girls
- Women and girls with disabilities
- Women and girls with HIV/AIDS
- Younger women
- Elderly women
- Immigrant women and girls
- Female Refugees and internally displaced women and girls
- Women and girls in humanitarian settings
- female heads of household

**4. In your report, please provide details of up to three specific examples, including objectives and scope of actions undertaken, target population, budget, impact assessment, lessons learned and links to further information. If possible, please provide data to support your answers (maximum 2 pages).**

- Increasing women's access to natural resources and ownership through the **development of women's cooperatives and the allocation of land to organizations** through the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding



between the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad and the Land Affairs Organization Of Iran as well as the Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives, as a result of which, as of now, 60,000 rural and tribal women have become members in 2000 rural and tribal cooperatives and some of them have been given land in the last 5 years.

- **Social development and capacity building in villages by training and supporting female facilitators of rural and nomadic development** who are volunteer forces chosen by rural women and covered by educational programs in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad. This plan is implemented in villages with over 50 households. With the implementation of this plan, 81% of eligible villages and nomadic areas have had female facilitators and 63,000 people have been covered by facilitator training. (26183 villages with over 50 households and 21000 villages having a facilitator)
- Implementation of the institution-building plan by **launching local micro-funds for rural and nomadic women**, created within this plan with the aim of saving and consolidating women's small capitals and providing financial resources in villages with over 100 households for rural and nomadic women. Currently, over 4,200 microcredit funds for rural and nomadic women have been established with over 120,000 members. These funds have been able to receive 1200 billion Rials in bank facilities from the financial and credit resources of the government. Considering that there are 15,700 villages with over 1,000 households in Iran, and 27% of eligible villages possess women's microcredit funds, so far, these funds have been a significant financial aid for women in the face of many crises, such as Covid, drought, damage to agricultural products, etc.
- Networking of rural women's microcredit funds and the establishment of women's county-level credit funds for the following: increasing the bargaining power of microcredit funds, access to the market, access to official sources of bank facilities and credits, and establishing communication between the members of microcredit funds scattered in different villages. (So far, 20 county-level funds have been established, covering 360 micro funds with over 13,500 members and with a capital of over 141 billion Rials.)
- 276,000 head of household women are **covered by the services provided by the State Welfare Organization**, including employment loans, housing and livelihood, pensions, goods and food packages, health insurance, etc.
- Establishment of a **guarantee fund for the employment of head of household women** without protective coverage in the first to fifth income deciles,

- Allocation of 600 billion Rials for the **development of the cooperative investment guarantee fund and issuance of guarantees for head of household women** to grant facilities up to one thousand billion Rials in the area of Employment in current year.
- Launching **family-oriented business plans** in 21 provinces to support female heads of households and girls.
- Drafting a **bill to exempt head of household women and mothers in charge of child custody from working outside their city/county of residence**
- Provision of suitable transportation and accommodation in nomadic, rural, border or underprivileged areas in order to bring back girls who have missed out on schooling to the education process.
- Identifying **the provinces with the most children and adolescents missing out on education and demanding and following up from the Provincial Departments of Education** to solve their problems.
- Allotment “**Shad**” **educational system and access to virtual education facilities and free internet** for girls that missing out on school.
- Providing **free vaccination services to all immigrants and refugees**, including free vaccinations for Covid-19
- Allotment of **the mechanism of free education for immigrant children** (about 700,000 people in the academic year 1401 – an increase in number due to the special conditions prevailing in Afghanistan), by the order of the Supreme Leader, illegal Afghan nationals need education and have engaged in academic studies at different levels of education. This is despite the fact that according to the available statistics, in addition to the aforementioned statistics, about half a million students of other foreign nationals who have legal immigration documents. Also they are studying alongside Iranian students without any difference or discrimination.
- Supporting the **empowerment project of women with disabilities** through vocational training (computer knowledge, phone operator knowledge, secretarial and life skills)
- **Support and empowerment of women without caretakers, women with irresponsible caretakers and disabled women** in Tehran Province
- 56,013 cases of **families with disabled members** continuously using the services of daily rehabilitation centers, vocational training centers, supportive production workshops and job support centers.

- **The number of women benefiting from the services of daily rehabilitation centers, vocational training centers, supportive production workshops and job support centers on a continuous basis is 26322.**

<b>The number of girls missing out on school by province in 1402-1403</b>					
	Province	Elementary School	Middle School	High School	Total
1	Sistan and Baluchistan	17051	13997	31111	61159
2	Razavi Khorasan	7982	5336	21588	34906
3	Khuzestan	5200	7068	20554	32822
4	West Azerbaijan	2537	5308	16855	24700
5	Tehran (City Proper)	11759	4645	7028	23432
6	Tehran Province (the counties)	2034	1962	6979	10974
7	Fars	4076	1964	5647	11687
8	East Azerbaijan	1667	1764	9478	12909
9	Golestan	1288	1883	8342	11513
10	Kerman	2743	2101	7037	11881
11	Isfahan	2544	1289	3652	7485
12	Hormozgan	1590	1732	6033	9355
13	Hamadan	756	887	4663	6306
14	Kurdistan	790	1214	4911	6915
15	Lorestan	1213	1222	4858	7293
16	Kermanshah	1034	1293	4954	7181
17	Mazandaran	1203	823	2646	4672
18	Gilan	999	770	2900	4669
19	Alborz	1458	811	2208	4477
20	Ardebil	607	730	3899	5236
21	North Khorasan	544	867	3682	5093
22	Qom	988	463	1632	3083
23	Zanjan	325	519	2977	3821
24	Qazvin	432	355	1869	2656
25	South Khorasan	507	482	2050	3039
26	Markazi	488	286	1436	2210
27	Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari	394	456	1832	2682
28	Bushehr	659	413	1413	2485
29	Yazd	730	293	956	1979

30	Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad	399	391	1526	2316
31	Ilam	255	250	808	1313
32	Semnan	336	171	587	1094
Total		74588	60745	196111	331444

As a result of this plan, 74588 individuals shall be organized in the elementary, 60745 in the middle and 196111 in the second-high school with a total of 331444. These people are led to the cycle of education according to their individual and geographical differences and considering the frequency of reasons for missing out on education through one of the six educational-managerial solutions.

<b>Educational-Managerial Solution</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
In-person education at schools	25	82861
Boarding schools	10	33144
Village-centered schools	20	66288
Combinational Education (Remote Education)	30	99433
Virtual schools	10	33144
The Literacy Movement	5	16574
Total	100	331444

### **Basis for the calculation of the required credit:**

Due to the type of educational-managerial solution and different stages of education, the following figures have been considered in the calculations:

<b>Educational-Managerial Solution</b>	<b>Stage of Education</b>	<b>Details of the Expenditure</b>	<b>Per Student (in Tomans)</b>
In-person education in schools	Elementary Education-Elementary School	1,000,000 Tomans for stationery and clothing 2,000,000 Tomans for educational and consulting support	3000000
In-person education in schools	Secondary Education - Middle School	1,500,000 Tomans for stationery and clothes 3,500,000 Tomans for educational and consulting support	5000000
In-person	Secondary	1,500,000 Tomans for stationery	7000000

education in schools	Education - High School	and clothes 5,500,000 Tomans for educational and consulting support	
Combinational Education (Remote Education)	Secondary Education - Middle School	3,000,000 Tomans for student tablets 1,000,000 Tomans for educational support	4000000
Combinational Education (Remote Education)	Secondary Education - High School	3,000,000 Tomans for student tablets 1,500,000 Tomans for educational support	4500000
Virtual schools	Secondary Education - Middle School	3,000,000 Tomans for student tablets 500,000 Tomans for educational support	3500000
Virtual schools	Secondary Education - High School	3,000,000 Tomans for student tablets 1,500,000 Tomans for educational support	4500000
Village-centered schools	Elementary and Secondary Education	9 months × 600,000 Tomans for transportation	5400000
Boarding schools	Secondary Education - Middle School	150 days × 100,000 Tomans for food plus 500,000 for accommodation	20000000
Boarding schools	Secondary Education - High School	150 days × 110,000 Tomans for food plus 500,000 for accommodation	22000000
The Literacy Movement	Adult Education - Night School	Educational-Managerial Support	2000000

### Tables of required credits based on the stage of education and educational solutions

	Educational-Managerial Solutions	Elementary Education -Elementary School		
		Number of	Per Student	Required Credit

		<b>Students</b>	<b>(in Tomans)</b>	<b>(in billion Tomans)</b>
1	In-person Education at Public Schools	44752	3000000	134256000000
2	In-person Education at Boarding Schools			
3	In-person Education in Village-centered Schools	29836		161114400000
4	Combinational Remote Education			
5	Virtual School			
6	The Literacy Movement			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>74588</b>		<b>29537040000</b>

	<b>Educational-Managerial Solutions</b>	<b>Secondary Education -Middle School</b>		
		<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Per Student (in Tomans)</b>	<b>Required Credit (in billion Tomans)</b>
1	In-person Education at Public Schools	15186	5000000	75930000000
2	In-person Education at Boarding Schools	6079	20000000	121580000000
3	In-person Education in Village-centered Schools	12149	5400000	56604600000
4	Combinational Remote Education	18223	4000000	72892000000
5	Virtual School	6074	3500000	21259000000
6	The Literacy Movement	3034	2000000	6068000000
		<b>60745</b>		<b>354333600000</b>

	<b>Educational-Managerial Solutions</b>	<b>Secondary Education -High School</b>		
		<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Per Student (in Tomans)</b>	<b>Required Credit (in billion Tomans)</b>
1	In-person Education at Public Schools	49027	7000000	343189000000
2	In-person Education at	19613	22000000	431486000000

	Boarding Schools			
3	In-person Education in Village-centered Schools	39222	5400000	211798800000
4	Combinational Remote Education	58833	4500000	264748500000
5	Virtual School	19611	4500000	88249500000
6	The Literacy Movement	9805	2000000	19610000000
	Total	196111	-----	1359081800000

### Statement of the final amount of required credit

	Educational-Managerial Solutions	Total Sum	
		Number of Students	Required Credit (in billion Tomans)
1	In-person Education at Public Schools	108965	553375000000
2	In-person Education at Boarding Schools	25692	553066000000
3	In-person Education in Village-centered Schools	81207	429517800000
4	Combinational Remote Education	77059	337640500000
5	Virtual School	25682	109508500000
6	The Literacy Movement	12839	25678000000
	Total	331444	2008785800000

#### **4- During the last five years, how has the confluence of various crises affected the implementation of BPfA in your country and what measures have you taken to prevent their negative impact on the progress of women and girls?**

In your report, please provide concrete examples of the impact of different crises on specific sensitive areas and the actions your country has taken to prevent derailment of progress and respond in a gender-proportionate manner (maximum 1 page).

The approval of the allocation of 10 billion dollars in the form of **employer loans** in order to stimulate the economy affected by Covid-19 is one of the other measures of the government to support families in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Also, allocation of 1 to 2 million-Toman facilities for 4 million households and financial aid of 200 to 600 thousand Tomans for 3 million people on four occasions have been other livelihood measures, and in all the mentioned cases, special attention has been paid to women.

Pursuing the allocation of **unemployment insurance benefits** for women and men who have lost their jobs due to Covid-19 pandemic, along with increasing the ceiling of services covered by public health insurance and obliging supplemental insurance to pay a share of social services, especially the treatment of patients with Covid-19 has been one of the most important activities of the government in the field of improving healthcare services during the pandemic.

Furthermore, with the aim of due diligence and better handling of the inauspicious phenomenon of violence, in sync with the **Social Emergency Service System** (phone No.123) of the State Welfare Organization throughout the country, recently, a new system (phone No. 1480) was launched to deal with child and spousal abuse with the help of 400 senior experts and PhDs in psychology and with the contribution of the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs. The new system has provided 63 thousand hours of free specialized telephone counseling to 152 thousand people by the end of Farvardin 1400 SH (March-April 2020). Also, the establishment of **the Telephone System for the Self-Assessment of Psychological Disorders** (Phone No. 4030) of the State Welfare Organization is one of the government's measures aiming to reduce mental and psychological pressures and reducing the crime rate. In this regard, the State Welfare Organization provides free and round-the-clock consultations for dealing with spousal and child abuse and other issues and, if necessary, in accordance with the legal permits obtained, it can execute appropriate protective and legal measures in certain cases, and due to the Corona epidemic, selected shelters and also safe houses owned by the State Welfare Organization have been operating while observing health standards and social distancing and have provided services in accordance with its agenda throughout the entirety of the pandemic.

It should be added that Iranian women are actually fighting the effects of economic terrorism and unilateral coercive measures that are being illegally implemented against the Iranian. Iranian women are struggling with the pressure of cruel and



unilateral sanctions that have threatened and jeopardized their life, health, the status of their livelihood and progress, and their children, and in this regard, the government has organized and executed all its executive policies and programs, sensitive to the negative effects of the sanctions, with a focus on the most vulnerable strata.

- Covid-19 and other pandemics
- Food and fuel crisis
- Debt crisis
- Armed conflict
- Climate crisis
- Crisis of care
- Reaction to gender equality
- Sanctions

**5- In the next five years, what are the priorities for accelerating the progress of women and girls in your country through laws, policies and/or programs?**

**In your report, please provide brief reflections on how you plan to address these priorities. In doing so, countries are encouraged to reflect on how their future actions are based on lessons learned from past successes and failures (3-5 pages).**

The most important action plan up until now has been the “Sixth National Development Plan Act” which, based on the goals set forth in it, is the realization of gender justice with an emphasis on economic, social, political, educational and health indicators, and currently the executive program contained within Article 101 of the said act has been approved with the theme of “gender justice” and is being implemented, monitored and observed in all the executive bodies of the country. The Sixth National Development Plan was approved for the years 1396 to 1400 SH March 2017 - March 2022 AD) and was extended for another 2 years and continued until the end of 2023. According to the statistics and evaluations provided by the Islamic Parliament Research Center, the harms and challenges of this plan have been extracted and based on that, it was decided that the priorities set in this act for women and family issues, which are as follows, were also emphasized in the Seventh National Development Plan for implementation. It is worth mentioning that the Seventh National Development Plan of the Islamic

Republic of Iran was compiled for the years 1403-1407 SH (March 2024 – March 2029 AD) and was drawn up in 7 sections, 24 chapters and 118 articles. Unlike the previous plan, which did not contain a specific chapter for women, family, and population, and the matters related to this field were under other clauses, in the seventh plan, 1 chapter (Chapter 16) and 3 articles (articles 79 to 81) have been dedicated to this field.

In this plan, unlike the previous development plan, which did not contain a specific chapter for the field of women, family, and population, and the matters related to this field were under other clauses; 1 chapter and 3 articles have been considered for this field, and the 16th chapter and articles 79 to 81 of this program are related to the field of women, family and population.

1-Eliminating the gender gap at all levels, including the economy and political participation, and the sustainability of the country's success in eliminating the gap in education.

2- Collecting information, resources and gender data in order to improve planning and monitoring achievements within both the BPFAs and the Sustainable Development Goals.

3-Formulating and approving the laws and regulations needed to facilitate the activities for the improvement of Iranian women's progress indicators

4- Improving the mechanism of women and the management of the existing mechanisms in the law, including the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, and female advisors to state organizations and NGOs.

5- Recognizing the developments in the field of women and family, increasing efficiency in related measures and policies, amending laws and regulations, and creating executive mechanisms for women's employment while respecting the role of women in the family, and future research of issues in this field.

6- Empowering and supporting women heads of household and women with irresponsible caretakers.

It is worth mentioning that for many years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been taking advantage of the opportunity to **sign inter-institutional Agreements** in order to achieve gender justice and empower women, and reduce cases of

discrimination. Using this tool is very effective in aligning the national joint and related programs and activities related to women, and also entrusts the provision of the necessary budget resources to the Contracting Party. In this way, as a matter of fact, new financial resources become available for women's activities.

It should also be added that talking about implementation in general, employment, entrepreneurship and providing livelihood with the approach of poverty alleviation and creation of sustainable and production-oriented jobs are being pursued and implemented in the 13<sup>th</sup> government. “**Empowerment of head of household women**”, “**Insurance for head of household women**” and entrepreneurship and creating suitable employment for these women are among the first priorities of the Vice Presidency of Women and Family Affairs. The 13<sup>th</sup> government is also interested in discussing the appropriateness of women's employment with regards to certain special conditions, and in this context, the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs put the development of the “**Women's Employment System**” on the agenda.

Women's employment system pertains to women between 20 and 40 years old, so that the employment conditions for working women are in such a way that they feel comfortable in terms of the type of work, working hours, and telecommuting or in-person working.

In this regard, the “**productive house plan**” has been drawn up so that if the conditions for continuing work from home are available, women can work from home so they can be comfortable in performing motherly duties while they are working.

Provision of facilities and benefits for the social presence of women, especially in the governance, and management and decision-making spheres, as well as the health, happiness and mental and physical well-being of women, especially young girls, are among the matters that the 13<sup>th</sup> government attaches special importance to.

Finally, given the successful experience of focusing on **women budgeting** on women and family issues, the government shall include the trend making of the gender perspective in the budgeting of all future programs and policies.

- Equality and non-discrimination based on the law and access to justice
- Quality education, lifelong training and learning for women and girls
- Eradication of poverty, agricultural productivity and food security

- Elimination of violence against women and girls
- Political contribution and representation
- The Right to work and rights in the workplace (e.g. gender pay gap, occupational segregation, occupational upward mobility, job creation)
- Women’s entrepreneurship and companies
- Unpaid care and home businesses / balancing work and family (such as paid maternity leave, paternity or parental leave, care services)
- Gender-appropriate social support (such as universal health care, cash transfers, pensions)
- Basic services and infrastructure (water, sewage, energy, transportation, etc.)
- Strengthening of women’s contribution to guarantee environmental sustainability
- Gender-appropriate budgeting
- Digital and financial inclusion for women
- Reducing disaster risk and building gender responsive resilience
- Changing discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes
- Other (please specify)
- None of the above

**Part III: The State of Progress in the Areas of Concern**

**This section covers progress in the 12 critical areas of BPfA. To facilitate analysis, 12 critical areas of concern are grouped into six broad dimensions that highlight BPfA’s alignment with the 2030 Agenda. This approach aims to facilitate reflection on the implementation of both frameworks in a mutually reinforcing manner to accelerate progress for all women and girls.**

**Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work**

<b>Important areas of concern</b>
<b>A- Women and poverty</b>
<b>B- Women and economy</b>
<b>C- Women's human rights</b>

<b>D- Female Children</b>
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**During the last five years, what measures has your country taken to promote gender equality in the work environment (including informal and non-standard employment as well as entrepreneurship)?**

**In your report, please provide details of up to three specific examples of actions taken, including objectives and scope of actions, target population, budget, impact assessment, lessons learned and links to further information. Please also provide information on measures for specific groups, such as those mentioned in question 3. If necessary and possible, please provide data to support your answers. If applicable, please also report on your participation or intention to participate in the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection. (Maximum 2 pages)**

- **Strengthening laws and regulations and judicial measures to create equal employment opportunities and promote women's participation** in economic fields and support working women, including the following:
  1. The approval of the Youthful Population and Protection of the Family Law on 24/07/1400 SH (October 16, 2021 AD), which in detail covers the issue of supporting the employment of pregnant women and those with infants; Including the following:
    - The requirement to accept the request of pregnant mothers for telework for at least four months during pregnancy in jobs where teleworking is possible,
    - Provision of daycare for the children of working mothers in government organizations for pregnant working mothers and mothers with infants for up to two years old and for fathers with infants up to the time the infant is one month old in jobs and activities that have night shifts
    - increase of paid maternity leave, salaries and related bonuses, for working mothers from six to nine months, twelve months for mothers with twins and more
    - compensation, by the government, of the expenses imposed due to maternity leave of mothers employed in the private sector;
  2. Resolution on organizing higher education institutions passed by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution dated 21/04/1400 SH (July 7, 2021) and

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specifying the detailed planning for strengthening higher education institutions especially for girls and recruiting female faculty members in these institutions;

3. Resolution on adding a note to Paragraph (1) of the Executive By-law on financing the increased maternity leave from 6 to 9 months, approved by the Cabinet on 26/02/1400 SH (May 16, 2021);

4. The Bill on the amendment of the law to add a note to the law on the Determination of the Employment Status of Contract-based Teachers and Educators of the Literacy Movement in the Ministry of Education. According to this Bill, all contract-based teachers and pre-school personnel covered by the said law (including teachers, educational coaches, PE teachers, schools counselors, health coaches, and administrative staff), in order to be employed, considering their university major, academic level, gender and years of service and employment capacity announced by Administrative and Recruitment Affairs Organization of Iran and according to the needs of the provinces, must attend an educational course at Farhangian University and get a passing grade in the end-of-course exam;

5. The Bill to organize the recruitment of government employees in order to observe employment justice and prevent any discrimination, organize the recruitment method and the type of work relationship between government employees and executive bodies, and ensure job security;

6. Ruling No. 445 of the General Board of the Administrative Justice Court on the subject of annulment of Paragraph 4 of letter No. 10/03/1395 - 43458 of the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare dated 11/03/1400 SH (June 1, 2021 AD). According to this Ruling, the application of Paragraph 4 the said letter, which absolutely denied the female employees of Bank Mellat from receiving family allowance, is against the law and beyond the scope of that Ministry's authority.

7. Resolution passed by the Cabinet dated Mehr 1400 SH (September –October 2021) on the continuation of the implementation of the remote work Resolution No. 44726 /76481 dated 7/4/1389 SH (June 28, 2010) and Article 4 of the by-law on remote work No. 200/52081 dated 11/10/89 SH (January 1, 2011) for working mothers with children under the age of 7.

8. Compilation and implementation of a comprehensive plan for the empowerment of head of household women in the Vice Presidency for Women and Family

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Affairs based on the areas of health, employment and entrepreneurship, and social, cultural and legal affairs;

➤ when it comes to **action and implementation**, we have witnessed the following:

1. Follow up on the allocation of the resources of **the National Development Fund to rural and nomadic women** under the executive bylaw of the law on supporting the development and creation of sustainable employment in rural and nomadic areas and the membership of the provincial Directors General for Women and Family Affairs in the said committee.
2. **Strengthening women's self-employment** by providing job-creating facilities and supporting technical and vocational training.
3. Continuation of **education, economic empowerment and job creation** for female heads of households (with irresponsible caretaker, without any caretaker, abused, divorced, unmarried over 45 years old), those recovering from addiction, the disabled, the socially disadvantaged; supporting female entrepreneurs and enhancing the performance of the driving force group; compilation, design and implementation of the economic empowerment plan for head of household women; support for female entrepreneurs in 29 provinces and creation of a current of entrepreneurship and job seeking in order to create sustainable employment by concluding a Memorandum of Understanding with 31 provinces; training 4514 women in order to create employment for 3204 women in 29 provinces and providing affordable bank facilities (Omid Entrepreneurship Fund with a capacity of 500 billion Rials and benefiting from the baking facilities of the Barakat Foundation in increasing the amount of affordable bank facilities granted to entrepreneurs in 29 provinces)
4. Empowerment of head of household women throughout the country in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare and related institutions. This plan is responsible for identifying head of household women and providing them with vocational training and selling their manufactured goods. The implementation of this national plan has led to the creation of 2645 brands of various products.
5. Education, economic empowerment and job creation of heads of household women by planning, compiling and implementing **the national plan of**

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**sustainable family-oriented business network** in collaboration with Barakat Foundation.

6. Planning and **holding a nationwide women's employment conference** with the participation of the top entrepreneurs of each province in order to encourage female employment.

7. Supporting **NGOs active** in the field of women and family in order to create employment for women throughout the country

8. Compilation of a **comprehensive program for the empowerment of head of household women** (in the review stage for approval by the government commission)

9. Empowering **rural heads of household women** by taking advantage of the potential and strength of top entrepreneurs to improve the livelihood of rural women

10. Empowering rural and nomadic women in **reducing waste by producing home compost** in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad

- Exchange of **several joint memoranda of Understanding on cooperation with other executive bodies** in order to lay the groundwork for the promotion of women's employment, including with the Deputy for rural development and deprived areas, with the aim of granting credit facilities for the employment of disadvantaged women and heads of households from the facilities mentioned in Note 16 of the Budget Law of the year 1400 SH and with the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad to cooperate in providing facilities and support for rural head of household women, as well as with the University of Applied Science and Technology to promote the knowledge, skills and personal, social and professional capabilities of women. Moreover, it is worthwhile to mention the document on cooperation with the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare and the Cooperative Investment Guarantee Fund (tripartite) to support employment projects and women's home businesses to empower and help the economy of head of household women, as well as joint cooperation with Barakat Foundation for job creation, entrepreneurship and female empowerment, especially head of household women with the priority of small and home businesses, and finally, in the joint cooperation program with the Association for Capital's Prisoners Support, Qarchak Women's Prison, focused was given on the economic empowerment of affected women and their families.



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- Exchange of cooperation documents with Omid Entrepreneurship Fund on the subject of **granting interest-free loans** to jobseekers, especially head of household women, women without caretaker and self-supporting girls who have never been married, and university graduates across the country in order to meet essential needs as well as start and develop home businesses, and micro and value-creating business, as well as with 30 provinces in order to support female entrepreneurs and empower and improve the job skills of head of household women.

- Strengthening/enforcing workplace laws, policies and practices that prohibit discrimination in employing, retention and promotion of women in the public and private sectors and equal rights laws.
- Introducing/strengthening gender-appropriate job creation and active labor market policies (such as education, skills, and subsidies)
- Taking measures to prevent sexual harassment, including at work
- Strengthening land rights and property security
- Improve financial inclusion and access to credit, including for self-employed women
- Improved access to modern technologies (including smart climate technologies), infrastructure and services (including agricultural development)
- Supporting the transition from informal to formal work, including legal and policy measures that favor women in informal employment
- Mechanisms devised for equal participation of women in economic decision-making institutions (such as Ministries of Economy and Finance, central banks, national economic commissions)
- Support for women of special groups such as rural and nomadic women and head of household women.

**7- In the last five years, what measures has your country taken to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work, promote the balance between work and life and family, and strengthen employee rights and legal care?**

**In your report, please provide details of up to three specific examples of actions taken, including objectives and scope of actions, target population, budget, impact assessment, lessons learned and links to further information.**

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**Please also provide information on measures for specific groups, such as those mentioned in question 3. Specific examples of how to address the increase in unpaid caregiving and domestic work during the Covid-19 pandemic are encouraged. If applicable, please also report on your commitment or intention to participate in the Global Alliance for Care. If necessary and possible, please provide data to support your answers. (Maximum 2 pages)**

- The priority in the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is the advancement of women, **the fair distribution of the country's facilities and the recognition of women's capacities and the creation of a foundation for the emergence of their talents.** Therefore, since women's job flexibility (including **flexibility of working hours, remote work, floating working time, employment in virtual and digital technologies, supporting the expansion of home businesses, various types of retirement facilities, etc.**) have been highly requested by women, they have been given special attention and have been included in the 7<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan, and efforts were made for this legal document to be drawn up on the basis of family-friendly programs.

- **Insurance for housewives**, as an effective step in the field of **adding value to home businesses**, has been on the agenda of the Iranian government for many years (since 1390 SH/2011 AD), and the government has obliged themselves to pay a share of the insurance premium paid by women. Also, the follow-up of financing the insurance budget for head of household women, the implementation of social security insurance for carpet weavers, rural women, nomads and housewives with the participation of the government and the private sector, as well as encouraging the creation of self-employed insurances, have been among noticeable measures.

- Moreover, an independent Agreement with the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare to support two projects 1-organizing women's employment through supporting the formation and development of **women's cooperative companies** with the approach of creating a value chain 2-supporting the establishment and development of the **cooperatives of female heads of households and women with disabilities** is ongoing. 7010 women's cooperatives with over 66000 members nationwide, amounting to 92 thousand job opportunities are active. In the last two years, 1223 women's cooperatives with 12196 members and 18900 job opportunities have been established.)

- **The National Home Business Development Plan** was drawn up and approved in the secretariat of the Headquarters for Organizing and Supporting Home Businesses of the Deputy's Office for entrepreneurship employment and development of the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare after analyzing the previous plans and conducting internal and external studies. In order to execute and implement this plan, Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research (ACECR) as a developmental, intermediary and facilitator institution was tasked with identifying, empowering (train and consult) natural and legal persons, and stabilizing home businesses by connecting to the market with the benefit of horizontal and vertical network. Moreover, using its network of experts, consultants and facilitators across the country, the ACECR aims to identify the missing links by benefiting from the capacities of all governmental and non-governmental organizations, especially the private sector and promote the position of home businesses in the country's economy (54300 applicants for setting up home businesses in 31 provinces and, in a parallel plan, the economic empowerment of 6200 female heads of households in 24 provinces based on the new model of home business development was implemented.)

Also, the trilateral Cooperation Agreement between the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, and the Cooperative Investment Guarantee Fund (tripartite) to support employment projects and women's home businesses for the purpose of empowering and helping women's livelihood especially head of household women and self-supporters, is one of the other ongoing nationwide projects, which has become the basis for justice and support for women's stable and successful employment.

About 600 billion Tomans of bank facilities have been allocated to home businesses only in 1399 SH (March 2020- March 2021).

- During the **Covid** pandemic, effective measures were taken as a result of serious cooperation of executive bodies and the guidance and influence on the programs and policies including the adoption of assistance-oriented measures in the form of **livelihood packages and free subsidies** for the **most vulnerable groups** - female-headed households, households with irresponsible caretakers and self-supporting girls, **supportive and flexible measures in the banking system - deferment and postponement in the collection of debts and delay exemption for the installments of the facilities granted and focusing on providing unemployment**

**insurance for micro and medium service, production, and home businesses and with a high level of vulnerability** in the face of the Corona crisis. Pre-pandemic, about 12000 female heads of households were given empowerment trainings within the framework of the plans implemented by this Vice Presidency and were linking to the market. With the outbreak of Corona, the Vice Presidency, in cooperation with other institutions, has engaged in the topic of head of household women; over 1,100,000 female heads of households are under the coverage of Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation and over 300,000 people are covered by the State Welfare Organization. The other part is those who are not yet supported and are at the back of the line or those who apply independently. The group that did not receive support was prioritized.

This Vice Presidency led two projects, one of which was carried out in collaboration with the Social Affairs Organization, the Technical and Vocational Organization, and NGOs, and based on that, it covered 5,700 female heads of households in 10 provinces, and its goal was the completion of a chain that starts from cultural and social education and skills training and ends with market linkage.

The second plan includes 6,200 female heads of households, which is implemented by the ACECR, the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare and the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs and covers 24 provinces. In the second plan, the new model of home businesses was implemented until reaching the labor market and led to the creation of a chain of production to sales and the registration of many successful commercial brands for women.

- The Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, in cooperation with the Barakat Foundation, has so far provided 203,000 community-based employment projects in underprivileged areas of the country, creating business opportunities for 610,000 people directly and indirectly.

- Includes unpaid care and home businesses in national statistics and accounting (such as time use surveys, valuation exercises, satellite accounts)
- Expand child care services or make existing services more affordable
- Extensive support for the elderly, people with disabilities and other people who need intensive care.
- Introducing or strengthening maternity/paternity/parental leave or other types of family leave

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- Investing in time- and labor-saving infrastructure, such as public transport, electricity, water and sanitation, to reduce the burden of unpaid care and home businesses on women.
  - Promote decent work for legal care workers, including migrant workers
  - Conduct campaigns or awareness-raising activities to encourage the participation of men and boys in unpaid care and home businesses
  - Creating legal changes regarding the division of marital assets or pensions after divorce, affirming to the family the unpaid share of women at the time of marriage.

### **8- In the last five years, what measures has your country taken to reduce the digital gender gap?**

**In your report, please provide details of up to three specific examples of actions taken, including objectives and scope of actions, target population, budget, impact assessment, lessons learned and links to further information. Please also provide information on measures for specific groups, such as those mentioned in question 3. If necessary and possible, please provide data to support your answers. (Maximum 2 pages)**

Iranian women have had significant activities in the field of information and communication technology as programmers, designers and project managers in domestic and international companies and startups. With their innovative ideas and technical abilities, these women have played an important role in advancing projects and creating new solutions. **24% of the country's inventors are women**, while this rate is 14% global. **345 laboratories out of 1424 member laboratories in the strategic technologies laboratory network (equivalent to 24 percent) are managed by women** and the presence of **904 women as the CEOs of knowledge-based companies and 303 creative companies managed by women** are other examples of Iranian women's success.

In the field of business, Iranian women have created innovative products and services by setting up startups and technology companies, which have not only helped the development of the domestic industry, but also achieved significant economic success. **250 knowledge-based companies were established by women and 2390 women are board members of knowledge-based companies in Iran.**

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Also, **70 accelerators in different fields nationwide have been managed by women.**

Also, Iranian women have achieved significant achievements in the field of education and research. By establishing universities and research centers, Iranian women have helped to improve the national level of knowledge and technology as professors, researchers and lecturers in the field of computer science, information technology, and software engineering. **The increase in the proportion of women who are members of university faculty to more than 35% and their 40% presence as faculty members of medical science universities** are some of these achievements. It is worth mentioning that **there is an increase in women's access to Education in 784 technical and engineering university majors** and added that the achievements of Iranian women in the field of knowledge and digital technology education as an example of a successful experience shows that by creating opportunities and supportive environments, women are able to reach their potential and play a prominent role in the development of domestic society and economy.

**Women comprise 4106 real shareholders of knowledge-based companies.** These companies operate in various fields of information technology, mechanism and equipment, electricity, medicine, biotechnology and medical equipment and provide services and products. Tehran province has the most female CEOs in knowledge-based companies with 321, which sees an increase of 76 people compared to 1398 SH (March 2019 - March 2020). **Women own 17% of the shares of knowledge-based companies**, and the field of drugs and diagnostic and treatment products has the largest number of female board members. Including the board members, the role of women in the management of knowledge-based companies reaches 25%, which is higher than all the companies in the country.

Examples:

1- For the first time, a chapter of the five-year National Development Plan Act has been dedicated to digital economy, and it has radically sought to facilitate digital activities and remove its obstacles, which confirms the government's resolve to focus on this area. Until now, according to the Executive By-Law of the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, **women have been prioritized in receiving bank facilities and employment permits in this field**, and following the government's special focus on this field, this matter will be followed up more seriously.

2- In line with the importance of women's management in the knowledge-based ecosystem, and awareness-raising and trend making about the importance of women's presence in this field, **an exhibition of the achievements of Iranian women entrepreneurs in various fields** such as electricity and electronics, medical equipment, accelerator centers and home businesses, automobiles, software, etc. It was held at Iran's House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT) last year and over 60 women from among 900 capable women from knowledge-based companies were selected as representatives of science and technology to set up this exhibition. For the purpose of developing fundamental knowledge, the Vice presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy **provided the women who attended the exhibition with 67 loans, each 5000 million Rials with a two-year repayment.**

3- **The cooperation of the National Women's Authority with Sahand Business Communication Company (Accelerator of Kasbino Application)** in job creation, business development, women's economy, expanding and creating a network of active women in the employment ecosystem in the field of women and family, and more support for educated girls in the field of technology and women entrepreneurs in this field.

- Gender perspectives in national digital policies
- Introducing or strengthening programs to create meaningful global connections for women and girls, especially for disadvantaged areas
- Actions have been taken to remove discriminatory barriers women and girls face to access, use and design digital tools (such as device and data costs, lack of skills, safety, and restrictive social norms)
- Actions have been taken to support the creation and expansion of safe, affordable, accessible, relevant and inclusive public and private digital tools and services
- Introducing or strengthening programs to increase digital literacy and women's and girls' skills
- Actions to promote gender-responsive STEM education
- Actions to create conditions for gender-responsive digital learning environments
- Apply gender-responsive and human rights-based standards for the collection, use, sharing, archiving of data

**9- In the last five years, how has the macroeconomic and financial policy environment affected the implementation of BPfA in your country and what macroeconomic policies has your country implemented to support a gender equal economy?**

**In your report, please provide details on public and private fiscal developments mobilized to advance gender equality, monetary and trade policies, where relevant, as well as any effects of fiscal consolidation/austerity measures, such as cuts in public spending or shrinking of the public sector. Offer women and men, boys and girls. (Maximum 2 pages)**

In recent years and with the intensification of the **unilateral and inhumane Coercive Masears** of the West against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Supreme Leader communicated the **general policies of the resistance economy** in 24 articles after consulting with the Expediency Discernment Council of the System and presented them to the heads of the three branches and the head of Expediency Discernment Council. Based on this, the national strategy of “Resistance economy which is the economy that can determine the growth and prosperity of the country during pressure, sanctions, and severe anonymity and hostilities” is on government’s agenda.

**Women have been considered as one of the main arms of realizing this objective**, especially focusing on education, employment, entrepreneurship, etc. Developing home and small businesses with the help and support of women’s funds and cooperatives, creating the possibility of safe, fast and affordable access to the Internet and increasing telecommunication and communication facilities, especially in remote areas and villages, promoting professional and entrepreneurial skills in various educational stages, etc. is among the solutions that have been considered.

For example:

In order to empower women as half of the country’s active population and guide them in the path of productive employment, Iran Technical And Vocational Education Organization provides various services for them, such as holding specialized short and long-term skill courses in 4 clusters of industry, services, agriculture and, culture and art and 47 educational groups in fixed centers, locations adjacent to universities, factories and inside industrial workshops, urban



and rural mobile centers, prisons and rural bases, etc. is among them. There are 669 special professions for women in the government sector and free technical and vocational schools and part of these measures are implemented in the form of various Memoranda of Understanding and Agreements. On the other hand, in order to fulfill its mission in the field of women, this organization has prepared a comprehensive strategic document for women's empowerment. The plans and strategies within this document include planning special skill courses for working women, managers, engineers, and female technicians of knowledge-based companies, planning specialized courses suitable for female entrepreneurs, policies and strategies for maintaining the dignity of injured and vulnerable women with different employment strategies and interaction with social partners influential to the fate of the target communities. Also, promoting the role of women in the organization's management positions, designing and establishing a model for supporting female elites in the organization, designing and developing a model for compiling educational and occupational standards and skill packages for women and families, including life skills in the style of resistance economy, improving the capabilities and professional skills of working women and their families, affected and vulnerable women and families, promoting the religious, cultural and social capabilities of women, developing policies and programs for Improving the physical and mental health of working women, etc.

**In the online survey, you will be asked whether your country has implemented austerity/fiscal stabilization measures, such as cutting public spending or shrinking the public sector, during the past five years (yes/no). If yes, you will be asked whether assessments of their impact on women and men were carried out before or after the implementation of the measures, respectively (yes/no).**

Yes

No

### **Poverty Eradication, Social Protection and Services**

<b>Important areas of concern</b>
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<b>A- Women and poverty</b>
<b>B- Women's education</b>
<b>C- Women and health</b>
<b>D- Women's human rights</b>
<b>E- Female Children</b>

**10- In the last five years, what measures has your country taken to reduce/eliminate poverty among women and girls?**

**In your report, please provide details of up to three specific examples of actions taken, including objectives and scope of actions, target population, budget, impact assessment, lessons learned and links to further information. Please also provide information on measures for specific groups, such as those mentioned in question 3. If necessary and possible, please provide data to support your answers. (Maximum 2 pages)**

Currently, the economic Ministries and institutions active in the field of empowerment, poverty alleviation and participation of women in economic affairs are: Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture Jihad, Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, and the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs that have taken significant measures for women's independence, ownership, and employment, and creating platforms to use women's capacities in order to increase national production through the following strategies:

- Investment in **increasing the efficiency of women** in the production, distribution and consumption network
- Planning to **remove the problems caused by economic sanctions and inhibiting factors in women's economic activities**
- Expansion of **social supports** including unemployment insurance, development and strengthening of compensation mechanisms for informal labor market workers, development of entrepreneurship and employment by improving the educational level and expertise of women.
- Supporting job creation in **women's rural cooperatives** through the creation of micro credit units.

- Strengthening **rural organizations and cooperatives** for the purpose of economic empowerment and income generation of rural women through facilitating access to production resources, land, capital, and property rights.
- Strengthening **women's self-employment** by providing job-creating bank facilities and supporting technical and vocational training.
- **Allocation of a part of the provincial credits** of executive bodies to women's affairs
- Strengthening **women's trade and business networks** and development through **the development of information technology (IT)**
- Payment of **entrepreneurship bank facilities** to women with higher education
- Paying **bank facilities for home businesses** to women in accordance with the culture and customs of each region to preserve and maintain the various customs and traditions of the cities in order to create a suitable economic environment.
- Proposing a **bill of exemption**, in the Supreme Labor Council, **with a discount, for the employer from paying the female workers' insurance premium**
- Formulation of an **early retirement bill regardless of the age requirement for women, prioritizing heads of households and female entrepreneurs**
- Granting **state-supported credit bank facilities with minimal interest to women**, prioritizing heads of households and female entrepreneurs
- Compilation of **protective by-laws in the field of labor relations concerning female workers** in different work levels and shifts for difficult and harmful jobs.
- Empowering women in terms of **providing employment opportunities** by following up on the employment for elite students, interaction with researchers in fields related to the water and electricity industry and new energies, and carrying out research projects and holding related festivals
- Communicating **circulars** related to the support for head of household, self-supporting, slum-dwelling, rural and nomadic women.
- Amending articles of the labor laws to improve the employment of women
- Identifying female entrepreneurs in the provinces
- Implementation of the local model for women's employment

Examples of government's executive output:

1. The establishment of the “**Single Window of Support Services for Head of Household Women**” system under the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare. In this model, in addition to the integration, levelization and categorization of supports, based on the type of needs and deprivations, the support and empowering services provided by the support institutions are specified and designed in a three-level model including the stages of cocoon, butterfly and flight with the aim of empowering and facilitating the exit of head of household women from the cycle of support services (direct support) of the first level.
2. Implementation of the national plan on “**Sustainable family-oriented business network**” in order to connect job seekers with business owners and the market
3. Creation of a **bank facilities guarantee fund for the employment of head of household women** belonging to income deciles 1-5
4. Creation of 160,000 home businesses for 80% of women last year
5. Issuance of over 280,000 home business permits
6. **Allocating lands** to women’s organizations and increasing women’s access to natural resources through the development of women’s cooperatives
7. Development of Sustainable business by implementing the systematic strategy program for **micro businesses of rural and nomadic women** based on the **LNSIE model** and creating 4,200 rural micro-funds.
8. Membership of over 60,000 rural and nomadic women in 2,000 rural and nomadic cooperatives
9. Annual education for 300,000 rural women and nomads by implementing the entrepreneurship promotion and sustainable business development plan aiming to promote science, engineering and technology education
10. **Social security insurance** coverage for rural women and professional nomads
11. **Social security insurance** coverage for rural housewives with three children
12. **Social security insurance** coverage for female heads of household by the government
13. **Social security insurance** coverage for housewives with the participation of the government
14. Focus on supporting female entrepreneurship and female entrepreneurs

15. Holding ten national contests to select the top female entrepreneurs across the country through polls and public voting

- Promoting poor women's access to decent work through active labor market policies (such as job training, skills, employment subsidies, etc.) and targeted measures
- Broad access to land, housing, finance, technology and/or agricultural promotion services
- Support for female entrepreneurship, access to markets and business development activities
- Social protection programs for women and girls have been introduced or strengthened (e.g. cash transfers for women with children, public work/employment guarantee schemes for women of working age, pensions for older women).
- Introduce/strengthen low-cost legal services for women living in poverty
- Other, please specify
- None of the above

**11- In the last five years, what measures has your country taken to improve the access of women and girls to social support?**

**In your report, please provide details of up to three specific examples of actions taken, including objectives and scope of actions, target population, budget, impact assessment, lessons learned and links to further information. In response to this question, countries are encouraged to reflect on any sustainable and gender-responsive innovations in social protection adopted in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please also provide information on measures for specific groups, such as those mentioned in question 3. If necessary and possible, please provide data to support your answers. (Maximum 2 pages)**

In general, social support systems in Iran consist of three main tools:

- Labor market programs
- Social assistance
- Social insurance (its types mentioned in the above paragraph.)

## **- Labor Market Programs**

Except for the level that need permanent services, the policy and decision makers' approach in the field of welfare and social support in the Islamic Republic of Iran is to help the vulnerable level to get out of the support cycle. In case of receiving the necessary training and learn the necessary job skills, many girls and women harmed or exposed to social harm can stand on their own feet and exit the support cycle. Based on this, measures have been taken to empower and improve the skill level of women and girls with the aim of their entry into the labor market. These measures are as follows.

### **1- Implementation of Internship Plan for University Graduates**

As an active policy in the labor market of university graduates, this plan is considered one of the effective solutions in terms of employability and skill training. It is worth mentioning that about 50% of the interns are women.

### **2- Organizing and Supporting Home Businesses**

There is no gender distinction between women and men in the law on organizing and protecting home businesses, but due to the advantages and benefits of home businesses, such as flexible working hours and the need for small capital to start a business, women have been generally more welcoming towards the home business program. Over 70% of registered home businesses are run by women, and nearly 80% of issued permit, bank facilities received and employment created by home businesses belong to women.

### **3- Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls through Government Bank Facilities**

Financing low-interest and interest-free loans to create micro and small businesses for people with skills, the elite and entrepreneurs, as well as support groups for female heads of households, families with social disadvantages, etc.

- Payment of bank facilities to job-creating charities
- Facilities granted in the cluster area
- Facilities granted in the field of support
- Facilities granted in the field of cooperatives
- Facilities granted in the field of brand

- Facilities granted in the field of self-employment
- Facilities granted in the field of employers

#### **4- Strengthening and Developing Support Groups**

Strengthening and developing women's support groups or empowering them through support groups for head of household women is one of the measures implemented with the aim of laying the grounds for the participation of help-seekers in all-round empowerment, reducing the dependence of help-seekers on the government support system, and accelerating the process of empowering head of household women. Laying the grounds for the use of women's capabilities, developing the process of reducing the economic problems of women and girls without relying on the government's financial resources, laying the grounds for increasing the awareness of the target community about the existing social resources of the society and the appropriate and timely use of resources are among other goals of the implementation of the plan to strengthen and develop women's support groups. These groups will be formed with at least 5 people and their members shall be prepared for employment and sustainable empowerment during pre-planned specialized programs.

Aiming to help the improvement of the social health of students and preventing social harm, the students' social participation plan is also one of the projects that has been started in schools and classrooms with the cooperation of several institutions with students, especially girls as the target group.

#### **5- Unemployment-free Villages and Every Village One Product**

Since, according to the latest census, over 10 million Iranian women and girls live in villages, the plans "Unemployment-free Villages" and "Every Village One Product Every House, A Factory" have been implemented for rural women and girls.

In the "Unemployment-free Villages" Plan, upon identifying the capacities and potentials of each village, as well as identifying local leaders and active and capable residents of the village, both men and women, efforts are made to bring the percentage of unemployment to its lowest level by creating a set of micro businesses. In this plan, ecotourism and tourism activities are part of income-generation activities, and rural women and girls are the main target population of the plan.

In the “Every Village One Product” Plan, one of the existing products or the products that have the potential to be produced in the village are supported in a way that, in addition to creating the best and highest quality product of its kind, the product lays the grounds for the employment of the residents of the village, including women and girls.

## **6- Development of Work and Entrepreneurship Culture**

In order to develop work and work culture for young girls in girls’ technical and vocational schools {Kar-va-Danesh}, the provision of facilities and services for the development of girls’ entrepreneurship in skill-based fields of study, till the entry into the job market, has been implemented since 1995. Among the provision of this ingoing plan are the following: covering female student in skill-based field of study of technical and vocational schools {Kar-va-Danesh} branch The skills (equivalent to 36.69% of the students of this branch) in addition to the development of industrial disciplines such as: electronics, industrial drawing, and the service-based disciplines such as clothing, handicrafts, embroidery, painting, stock market and securities, glass and precious stone cutting, gold and jewelry making, interior architecture and agricultural disciplines such as: medicinal plants, houseplants, growing mushrooms, etc., subject to the existence of suitable job opportunities and provision of other facilities throughout the country.

### **- Social Assistance**

In the social welfare system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, various organizations and institutions are closely knit and each of them has taken a role in promoting general social security and welfare. Within Iran’s comprehensive welfare and social security system, social and welfare services needed by the general public, especially women and girls, are planned and implemented at several levels. The first level is social assistance. The services and measures provided at this level are aimed at solving issues and problems immediately, preventing harms and helping the target community to exit this situation. Based on this, the target society of the services are vulnerable or exposed groups, and these people, until they have the ability to leave the support cycle, are covered by various services, and the government and executive bodies meet all their needs, such as food, clothing, housing, health, education, etc. In the field of social assistance, the most important actions are:



Amending and updating laws and regulations, identifying girls and women in need of support, paying educational grants, providing housing deposits for women, raising awareness and educating women and girls, courses on marriage and family stability, health screenings, supporting families and women with multiple children, food support for pregnant and lactating mothers, launching of a single window of welfare services for female heads of the household, social support in natural disasters, establishment of safe houses for women, establishment of health centers for girls, establishment of centers for social emergency services, interventions by social workers, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts, especially women and girls and establishing social service bases in deprived areas.

Examples of recent efforts to improve the national rules and regulations:

The Judicial Evolution Document, approved on 30/09/1399 SH (December 20, 2020) by Lord Justice, has taken into consideration the issue of laying the groundwork for the realization and protection of women's rights as follows:

- The duty to establish a "comprehensive system of legal obligations" by Tir 1401 SH (June-July 2022 AD) for the public, online and integrated publication of legal obligations, the implementation status of each law, proposals for structural and procedural reform, and the ranking of administrative bodies; including with the aim of strengthening the implementation of laws and regulations in the field of women and family;

- following up on the dereliction of legal duties by managers and neglect and negligence in the implementation of laws by compiling "instructions on how to prevent and deal with dereliction of legal duties by managers and employees and determining the appropriate punishment for managers of administrative bodies" with the priority of following issues related to women and family until Tir 1401 SH (July-August 1401);

- The mandate to establish a "special job promotion system for women working in the judiciary" until Tir 1401 SH (July-August 1401)

- Cash transfers for families with children that prioritize women as recipients (such as child allowance, family allowance, conditional or unconditional cash transfer)

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- Social protection for women of working age (e.g. unemployment benefits, public works programs, social assistance) has been introduced or strengthened.
  - Introducing or strengthening social support for older women (e.g., expansion of social pensions, suspension, inflation adjustment, providing pension credits for caretakers)
  - Extensive social support for women in informal jobs (such as subsidies for participation in cooperative schemes, inclusion in non-cooperative schemes)
  - Improving access to social support for other marginalized groups of women (please refer to the groups listed in the third question)
  - Other, please specify
  - None of the above

**You will also be asked about gender-responsive social protection innovations during the Covid pandemic, with the following options to choose from:**

- There was no significant social support with regards to the Covid pandemic.
- Social support during the pandemic was significant, but did not produce any gender-responsive innovation.
- Social support for the pandemic caused gender-responsive innovations, but the measures were mostly short-lived.
- The pandemic caused gender-responsive innovations as well as long-term social support transformations.

**12- In the last five years, what measures has your country taken to improve the health outcomes of women and girls in your country?**

**In your report, please provide details of up to three specific examples of actions taken, including objectives and scope of actions, target population, budget, impact assessment, lessons learned and links to further information. Please also provide information on measures for specific groups, such as those mentioned in question 3. If necessary and possible, please provide data to support your answers. (Maximum 2 pages)**

- 60 midwives and 2.8 obstetricians per 100000 women
- 95% of births are performed by obstetricians and gynecologists
- Increasing the life expectancy index of women to 78.5 years

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- 98% of the gynecology and obstetrics surgeons are women
  - 40% of specialist doctors and 30% of subspecialist doctors are women
  - Women comprise half of the medical staff
  - Ranking 10th globally in terms of the lowest death rate from cervical cancer
  - Reducing the maternal mortality rate to 16 per 100,000 live births
  - Reducing the infant mortality rate to 8.2% per 100,000 births
  - Reducing the death rate of children under 5 to 14.2% per 100,000 births
  - Full vaccination of over than 95% of children
  - Promoting the consumption of breastfeeding for about 90% of children up to the age of 1, 80% up to the age of 1.5, years old and 40% up to the age of 2.
  - Implementation of universal health coverage network for all villagers and nomads
  - Free and general implementation of vaccination throughout the country

1- The Islamic Republic of Iran has undertaken a prevention policy to improve the Iranian girls' and women's health. Some of the activities carried out under this approach to improve women's health are:

- ❖ Compilation and implementation of the National Document on Women's Health with 1404 SH (March 2025-2026 AD) prospect focused on 26 specific goals, including: development of research and continuous monitoring and evaluation of women's health status, improvement of women's physical, mental, social, and spiritual health status, strengthening of women's health policies and programs under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, improving women's health literacy, improving justice in access to health services to improve women's health indicators in different regions of the country, developing the provision of health services to disadvantaged areas, increasing women's participation at high levels of decision-making in the country's health system and...
- ❖ The establishment of the health liaison project since 1370 SH (March 1991-92) in the outskirts of cities and marginal areas to safeguard and strengthen maternal health programs and improve the coverage of safe childbirth in deprived and remote areas
- ❖ Empowering mothers to consciously maintain and improve their health during pregnancy, childbirth and after childbirth for free in health centers across the country

- ❖ Improving the status of women's hospitals, maternity hospitals and mother-friendly hospitals and especially infertility centers throughout the country
- ❖ Training of female medical staff
- ❖ Drawing up national guidelines for clinical considerations during childbirth in mothers dependent on narcotic drugs
- ❖ Strengthening national monitoring and evaluation systems (Sib-e-Salamat system)
- ❖ Take action to prepare electronic records of mothers' health nationwide
- ❖ Definition and implementation of women's health applications to improve lifestyles, provide correct and current information, prevent women's common diseases, monitor, observe and, prompt and timely doctor appointments.
- ❖ Implementation of free self-care training programs and prevention of women's common diseases
- ❖ Strengthening and developing sport for all and professional sports by increasing the participation of women
- ❖ Establishment of basic research centers for research on girls' and women's diseases
- ❖ Construction and setting up of maternity facilities and midwife training courses in rural areas
- ❖ Implementation of the national plan to dispatch health convoys targeted for women in deprived areas of the country
- ❖ Inclusion of sexual health and pubertal health content in middle and high school textbooks
- ❖ Holding specialized workshops on pubertal health, recognition of the types of women's cancer and HPV, infertility, reproductive health in accidents and crises...

**2- In line with the implementation of Article 76 of the Sixth National Development Plan Act, the following measures have been taken in the last two years:**

- ❖ Listing priorities and main needs in the field of women's health and hygiene separately sorted for 31 provinces
- ❖ Improvement in the pregnancy care coverage index (four times and more). This index should be close to 100% in current conditions.
- ❖ Improving, equipping and setting up provincial infertility treatment centers
- ❖ Full free insurance coverage for mothers during pregnancy and breastfeeding, and children in their first 7 years

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- ❖ Full coverage for free infertility treatment insurance
  - ❖ Improving the coverage for safe childbirth in deprived and remote areas by training midwives who are trained as midwives. (implementing this plan, the rate of childbirth by untrained individuals has decreased and is close to zero)
  - ❖ Construction of support centers and accommodation for mothers at risk near the hospital
  - ❖ Increasing the capacity of hospital beds to 16,000 beds (equivalent to 20% of the country's hospital beds)
  - ❖ Increase of 1700 cases to the capacity of the health center
  - ❖ Free health insurance coverage for 5 lower income deciles across the country
  - ❖ Drawing up family health and referral system program with the participation of 20 countries
  - ❖ Formulation of the national cancer prevention campaign (with a special focus on women's cancers)
  - ❖ Formulation of the children's health national campaign
  - ❖ Screening women's mental health with a special focus on female heads of the household
  - ❖ The formation of a specialized working group on health and population in the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs with the aim of raising awareness and sensitizing government agencies to the physical and mental health of women and the vitality of the family.
  - ❖ Implementation of joint cooperation programs between Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs and NGOs on improving the physical and mental health of women in deprived areas (7 programs at the level of the target provinces)
  - ❖ Approval of 5 resolutions for a 23.2 billion Tomans increase in the budget for women's health and treatment; the budget is allocated as follows: 3 billion Tomans for Kermanshah Province, 10 billion Tomans for Hamadan Province, 10 billion Tomans for North Khorasan Province, 0.2 billion Tomans for the Health Monitoring Plan in Tehran, one resolution for Markazi Province
  - ❖ Preparation and distribution of subsistence packages and food supplements among the families in the first 5 income deciles, with a special focus on female heads of households and marginalized women.
  - ❖ Hearing screening for babies and infants and early intervention with the aim of improving hearing health and reducing the damage to children aged 3 to 5 through kindergartens, national screening to prevent Amblyopia (lazy eye) and other visual disorders in children aged 3 to 6, anxiety screening for children

aged 5 and 6 with the aim of identifying children suffering from anxiety and providing them with medical services, screening and diagnosing autism spectrum disorders for children aged 2 to 5 and ...

- ❖ Free supply and distribution of folic acid and Iodofolic, iron drops, A+D drops and multivitamins for children and women throughout the country.
  - ❖ Preparation of educational pamphlets and distribution among mothers visiting the hospitals covered by Jiroft, Fasa, Babol, Bojnord, Mazandaran and Bam Universities of Medical Sciences through the program to support reproductive health policies and maintain the natural birth process.
  - ❖ Implementation of sexual and mental health counseling and training plan before, during and after marriage for couples in the first 5 years of marriage.
  - ❖ 100% increase in the growth of women's sports and their medal winning
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- Improving women's access to health services through the expansion of universal health coverage or public health services
  - Expansion of specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, maternal health and HIV services
  - Promoting men's participation in sexual and reproductive health, including the use of contraceptives and responsible sexual behavior
  - Measures to support women's mental health, including access to specialized services and counseling
  - Development of gender-sensitive approaches to the prevention and treatment of chronic and non-communicable diseases (such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes)
  - Conducting gender-based public awareness/health promotion campaigns
  - Gender responsive training for health service providers
  - Strengthening comprehensive sex education in schools or through social programs
  - Taking action to improve access to health services for marginalized groups of women and girls
  - Other, please specify
  - None of the above

**13. In the past five years, what measures has your country taken to improve educational outcomes and skills for women and girls, including in underrepresented sectors?**

**In your report, please provide details of up to three specific examples of actions taken, including objectives and scope of actions, target population, budget, impact assessment, lessons learned and links to further information. Please also provide information on measures for specific groups, such as those mentioned in question 3. If necessary and possible, please provide data to support your answers. (Maximum 2 pages)**

- Eradication of illiteracy among people aged 10 to 49 with a rate of 97%
- Reducing the literacy gap between men and women to less than 6.1%
- Reducing the literacy gap between urban and rural areas to 11%
- Erasing the gender gap in at elementary and secondary education
- 115% growth in the enrollment percentage of female students in primary schools
- 84% growth in the enrollment percentage of female students in high schools
- 48% increase in the ratio of female to male students
- Increasing women's access to education in 784 technical and engineering fields of study
- Women comprise 56% of public university students
- 35% increase of female university faculty members
- Women comprise 40% of the faculty members of the universities of medical sciences
- Women comprise 60% of teachers
- Women comprise 24% of the inventor community

1- Regarding the recent **legal measures** of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to improve women's educational status and their access to education, the following can be mentioned:

- Article 7 of the Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents 2020 has criminalized the avoidance by the parents or legal guardians of a child

(including a girl) in providing the means for their education or preventing the child's education;

- Article 23 of the executive by-laws within Article 6 of the Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents, approved on 30/03/1400 SH (June 20, 2020 AD), considers the first 9 years of education (until the end of middle school) compulsory for children and adolescents and affirms that every child and adolescent in care centers must continue their education. Education conditions must be in accordance with national standards and under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, and educational documents must be issued by the said Education without mentioning the name "orphan care centers".
- According to Article 32 of the by-law, the Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organization is obliged to prepare and implement formal, technical and professional trainings, life and communication skills and other trainings appropriate to the age, gender, culture and status of children and adolescents deprived of their freedom, identify and introduce children and adolescents whose parents or legal guardian are in prison to the State Welfare Organization and the Ministry of Education and take action after the discharge of the help-seeker to facilitate and complete the process of continuing education;
- According to Article 36 of the said by-law, the National Organization for Civil Registration is responsible for providing the names and addresses of Iranian and non-Iranian children and adolescents who have reached the legal age of education, divided into urban and rural, every year at least three months before the beginning of the new academic year, to the Ministry of Education;
- According to Article 42 of the said by-law, the Ministry of Education is obliged to enroll children and adolescents introduced by the State Welfare Organization and support institutions free of charge, provide free education to children and adolescents in care centers or correctional centers, take necessary measures regarding free education for young workers or trainees, identify children and teenagers missing out on education and take the necessary measures if there is a need for protective or legal measures to solve the reason for dropping out of education, provide Children and adolescents with disabilities or with cognitive disorders or learning problems with special and appropriate training, and lay the grounds for the provision of and access to comprehensive virtual educational services for all students;



- According to Article 43 of the said by-law, the Ministry of Education is obliged to continuously monitor the attendance status of students during the academic year in all public and private schools, and if suspicious cases of dropping out are identified, while investigating the issue and determining the cause, lay the grounds for re-attendance and continuation of the student's education;
- According to Article 45 of the said by-law, the Literacy Movement Organization is obliged to take action, within the framework of the rules and regulations of the Literacy Movement and upon request of the guardian of children and adolescents or support institutions, to provide free education to children and adolescents who, due to reasons such as special physical conditions, disability, illness, lack of facilities and the conditions of education, increasing age compared to the level of education or any other reason are not able to continue education in the official education system of the country.

Regarding the recent **executive measures** of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to improve women's educational status and their access to education, the following can be mentioned:

- Implementation of the plan to empower women with disabilities through vocational training with the joint cooperation of the National Women's Authority and the Iran Technical and Vocational Training Organization (10,300 people/hour until Mordad 1402 SH/July-August 2023 AD).
- Preventing girls from dropping out of school by identifying cases at the country level, diagnosing and solving the problem through the conclusion of a joint Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the National Women's Authority and the Ministry of Education.
- Teaching practical skills for women with an emphasis on housewives through the selection of educational topics for the beginning of the academic year 1402-1403 SH (2023-2024 AD) with television support and uploading on a virtual platform for learners.
- Preparing educational packages, improving parents' awareness and skills, increasing interaction and effective communication between parents and children, increasing students' ability and awareness of personal health in cooperation with experts and the Ministry of Education.

- Holding 414 educational workshops and 1309 hours of training for 4136 female students in the provinces of Ilam, Kermanshah, Lorestan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad in order to raise awareness and reduce social harms.
  - Providing 126 hours of counseling and group therapy services to female students in the provinces of Ilam, Kermanshah, Lorestan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad in order to reduce and prevent social harm.
  - Education, provision of consulting services and training workshops in line with the management and improvement of social damage in the marginalized areas targeted by the project
  - Identifying girls and women in need of support, paying educational grants, providing housing deposits for women, informing and educating women and girls
  - Implementation of an internship program for university-educated girls in the form of the “Kamand Project” in order to create a link between the university, the labor market, and successful entrepreneurs.
  - Increase in the presence of women in scientific competitions and winning titles by winning numerous awards in 1401 SH/March 2022-23 AD (11 people in the National Robotics Competition, 498 in the University Students’ Science Olympiad, 515 in Kharazmi Festival, and 61 people in Farabi Festival)
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- Taking measures to increase the access, continuation and completion of primary and secondary education for girls
  - Actions to increase girls’ access, continuation and completion of education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and skills development programs
  - Remove barriers to successful school-to-work transition for women and girls
  - Strengthening educational curricula to increase gender responsiveness and eliminate bias, at all educational levels
  - Provide gender equality and human rights training for teachers and other education professionals
  - Promoting safe, harassment-free and inclusive educational environments for women and girls
  - Increasing access to skills and training in new and emerging fields, especially STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and digital mastery and literacy.

- Ensuring access to safe water and health services and facilitating the management of menstrual health, especially in schools and other educational/training environments.
- Strengthened measures to prevent teenage pregnancy and empower teenage girls to continue their education in case of pregnancy and/or motherhood
- Other, please specify
- None of the above

**14. What measures has your country taken to ensure that the economic recovery after the Covid-19 pandemic closes the gender gaps, exacerbated by pandemic, in poverty, employment, social protection, education and/or health?**

**In your report, please provide details of up to three specific innovations, including objectives and scope of actions undertaken, target population, budget, impact evaluation, lessons learned and links to further information, focusing on actions that have extended beyond the emergency. In doing so, countries are encouraged to reflect on lessons learned from the pandemic for current and future crises. Please also provide information on measures for specific groups, such as those mentioned in question 3. If necessary and possible, please provide data to support your answers. (Maximum 2 pages)**

1- Aiming for due diligence and better handling of the inauspicious phenomenon of violence, in sync with the social emergency services (phone No.123) of the State Welfare Organization throughout the country, recently, a new system (phone No. 1480) was launched to deal with child and spousal abuse with the help of 400 senior experts and PhDs in psychology and with the contribution of the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs. The new system has provided 63 thousand hours of free specialized telephone counseling to 152 thousand people by the end of Farvardin 1400 SH (March-April 2020). Also, the establishment of **the Telephone System for the Self-Assessment of Psychological Disorders** (Phone No. 4030) of the State Welfare Organization is one of the government's measures aiming to reduce mental and psychological pressures and reducing the crime rate. In this regard, the State Welfare Organization provides free and round-the-clock consultations for dealing with spousal and child abuse and other issues and, if necessary, in accordance with the legal permits obtained, it can execute appropriate protective and legal measures in certain cases, and due to the Corona epidemic,

selected shelters and also safe houses owned by the State Welfare Organization have been operating while observing health standards and social distancing and have provided services in accordance with its agenda throughout the entirety of the pandemic. Public awareness, information dissemination and sensitization about the phenomenon of domestic violence against women, children, disabled and elderly in the form of text messages and media warnings have been among other special activities during Covid-19 with the joint cooperation and coordination of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, the State Welfare Organization, the Office of Assistant to the President for Citizen Rights, and Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs. (It is worth noting that this successful experience was mentioned by the Secretary General of the United Nations as a successful experience.)

2- Pre-Covid outbreak, in line with the implementation of the comprehensive plan for the empowerment of head of household women, about 12 thousand female heads of household were given empowerment training and connected to the market cycle within the framework of the plans implemented by the Vice Presidency of Women and Family Affairs. In addition, this Vice Presidency, in cooperation with other institutions, has engaged in the subject of head of household women. Over 1,100,000 head of household women were covered by Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation and over 300,000 people were covered by the State Welfare Organization, but during the Corona period, a group of women head of the household, who had not received government support before, were targeted for government support. In this regard, the National Women's Authority started two projects in this period, one of which is carried out in collaboration with the Social Affairs Organization, the Technical and Professional Training Organization, and NGOs and covered 5,700 female heads of households in 10 provinces. Its aim was to complete the chain of cultural, social and skills training to connect to the market. The implementation of this plan was followed up in 1399 SH (March 2020-21 AD) with the addition of five provinces, on the basis of which 2,000 female heads of households were added to the women covered by the plan. The second plan includes 6,200 female heads of households. ACECR, the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare and the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs cooperated in the implementation of this plan and covered 24 provinces. In this project, the new model of home businesses was implemented until reaching the labor market.

3- Implementation of the family dialogue national plan with the aim of increasing the level of the resilience of family members during the Covid with employing a dialogue-oriented approach in the family, which is one of the most important mechanisms for the cohesion and convergence of families in the face of economic and social harm.

4- Adoption of assistance-oriented measures in the form of livelihood packages and free subsidies for female-headed households, households with irresponsible caretakers, and self-supporting girls, supportive and flexible measures in the banking system –

deferment and postponement in the collection of debts and delay exemption for the installments of the facilities granted and taking efforts to provide unemployment insurance for micro and medium service, production, and home businesses with a high level of vulnerability in the face of the Covid and ...

### **Freedom from Violence, Stigma and Stereotypes**

<b>Important areas of concern</b>
<b>A- Violence against women</b>
<b>B- Women' s human rights</b>
<b>C- Women and the media</b>
<b>D- Female child</b>

**15- During the last five years, which forms of gender-based violence has your country prioritized for action in which specific fields or situations?**

**In your report, please explain why your country considers these priority areas or areas and how it has addressed them. If possible, please provide data to support your answers (3-5 pages).**

The “provision of personal and social security for citizens”, especially “women”, in different physical, mental, emotional and social dimensions, is considered one of the most important tasks of any government; At the legislative, executive and judicial levels, our country has taken preventive measures against

the occurrence of violence, to supporting the victims of violence, and prosecuting the perpetrators of violence;

- The approval of the generalities of the bill to promote security and prevent and protect women against harm in the Islamic Council. Trying to intensify the punishment of violators of women's rights, including vulnerable women such as women under 18, pregnant, lactating, sick, elderly, mentally or physically disabled, sensory and psychological, and homeless and displaced women, women who are victims of domestic violence, virtual and computer abuse, affected women without financial means, women rejected from their place of residence, vulnerable women who are victims of abuse, women heads of the household subject to financial punishments for unintentional crimes, the bill provides legal and criminal protections for the said women. For the first time in Iran's legal system, this bill has defined violence against women and has considered some types of violence as "crime" and has considered "punishment" for them, and at the same time, it has set tasks for the relevant judicial and executive bodies, therefore by directing the said bodies and make them take roles, it has prevented the occurrence of violence against women and provided support to the victims of this violence.

In this bill, any behavior that occurs to a woman due to her gender or vulnerable position or the type of relationship of the perpetrator and causes injury or harm to the body, mind or character and dignity of the woman, or leads to the restriction or deprivation of legal rights and freedoms is considered as violence. In order to realize the goals of this bill, the judicial branch is obliged to establish and strengthen support offices for women who have experienced violence or are exposed to violence and take the necessary measures to protect their rights and dignity in judicial bodies and other institutions as well as conduct special training courses for judges, bailiffs and employees of judicial bodies.

Among the other points emphasized by this bill is the establishment of a fund for the protection of women who have suffered violence or are exposed to violence by the Ministry of Justice, with the aim of supporting this group in cases such as paying the monetary difference of Diya in case a woman is murdered and the killer is a man, and the legal guardians of the victim cannot afford the difference in order to perform Qisas, as well as providing medical expenses, life and job skills training for imprisoned women during their imprisonment. According to the said bill, the difference in Diya of female heads of households who are killed or physically

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harmed will be paid from Bayt al-mal, in the amount equivalent to the Diya of a man.

Also, based on the provisions of the mentioned bill, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Organization (IRIB) is also obliged to prepare and broadcast media programs in increasing the preservation of dignity and protection of women against violence and promoting appropriate models of behavior towards them in the family and society. Developing and implementing appropriate curricula for students and holding training courses for teachers, parents and legal guardians, development of counseling service centers, continuous monitoring of social and family harms to identify students exposed to violence, admission of female students with irresponsible caretakers or without caretakers in boarding schools, monitoring the status of girls missing out on or dropped out and taking necessary measures are among the most important responsibilities of the Ministry of Education on the path towards the realization of this bill.

In addition, according to the mentioned bill, while obliged to strengthen and expand specialized health, treatment, counseling and psychiatric centers for women, and train and provide specialist personnel in this field, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education needs to put the following on top of its agenda: admit and immediately treat women who have experienced violence or been exposed to violence, carry out basic support measures, and introduce women who have experienced violence or are exposed to violence to social emergency services centers and other support centers. Moreover, in case of financial incapacity, the women subject to this bill are exempted from paying medical expenses directly caused by violence, and such expenses are paid from the fund for the protection of women subjected to violence or exposed to violence.

The Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organization is also obliged to take the necessary measures on increasing the safety of women in prisons, establishing special facilities for keeping the children of female prisoners up to the age of 7, including the establishment of a daycare center outside the prisons and in the vicinity of the prison, making maximum use of the capacities of the Islamic penal code concerning the system of the Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organization, parole and the use of electronic systems to reduce the population of female prisoners, etc. According to this bill, whenever the husband, despite possessing knowledge about the existence of his disease and its contagiousness, embarks on sexual intercourse with his wife and the said

intercourses leads to wife's death, if defined as a willful murder, he will be sentenced to Qisas and otherwise to the corresponding punishment. Also, if a man sends unconventional messages or images to a woman against her will through telecommunication systems, virtual space or any other means and causes mental or psychological harm, he will be sentenced to pecuniary punishment.

In addition, if someone establishes an illicit relationship with a woman, other than adultery, with an element of force or reluctance on the side of the woman, he will be sentenced to the discretionary punishment of 99 lashes and deprivation of social rights of the 6<sup>th</sup> degree. Furthermore, any request or proposal to establish an illicit relationship with a woman is considered a crime, and the perpetrator is sentenced to one of the 6<sup>th</sup> degree discretionary punishments. Also, when a husband leaves the marriage in an unconventional way without a valid excuse, or forcibly remove his wife from their shared home or prevent her from entering the house, he will be sentenced to 7<sup>th</sup> grade imprisonment or pecuniary punishment. If a man, knowing that a woman is in another marriage, suggests that she gets a divorce from her current husband with the promise of marriage, he will be sentenced to 7<sup>th</sup> degree imprisonment and if it leads to divorce, to 8<sup>th</sup> degree imprisonment.

Anyone who causes a woman to run away from home by the means of coercion, reluctance, threat, deception, trickery, incitement, abuse of power, and encouragement will be sentenced. In cases the atmosphere of the home causes sexual, physical and mental dangers and attempts are made to leave the house in order to protect the woman from these dangers, it is not subject to the provisions of this article.

- Approval of **national general marriage education programs** (before, during and after marriage) with the aim of improving the communication skills of family members and reducing and preventing the occurrence of violence.
- Approval of the **national active and preventive family counseling** plan for newly formed families.
- Formation of the bill for determining how to handle persons without identity papers, focusing on women and children, and the formulation of the bill for assigning temporary identification codes to those without identity papers
- The Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents focusing on the protection of all children under the age of 18 including female children was adopted on 23/02/1399 SH (May 12, 2020 AD) and has established rules for all



kinds of violent behavior, including carelessness and negligence causing harm to a child (Article 9), contact and non-contact sexual abuse of a child (Article 10), trafficking of a child for the purpose of prostitution, pornography and sexual exploitation (Article 11), child trafficking (Article 12), and buying and selling a child (Article 13);

- The Family Protection Law, approved on 01/12/1391 SH (February 19, 2013 AD), has criminalized instances of violence by the husband against the wife; Among its cases, we can point out the criminalization of denial of marriage, non-registration of marriage and divorce, or preventing mother and child from meeting.

- In Iran's penal code, early marriage is criminalized, and for this purpose, since child marriage and forced marriage is a phenomenon attributed to cultural and social poverty, fundamental measures are required to correct those cases. The Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, on its own or in collaboration with other bodies, has carried out fundamental cultural measures in the form of awareness raising and sensitization to raise the age of marriage and modify certain customs of especially in deprived and less culturally privileged areas, with the aim of preventing early marriage.

- In terms of practical measures, the "Social Emergency Services Program", characterized by specialization, timeliness and availability, has been provided. It is a combination of intervention in individual, family and social crisis, social emergency hotline, social emergency mobile team, and social service base (in marginal and vulnerable areas). The 480 voice hotline of the State Welfare Organization for consultation, and the addiction counseling hotline of the State Welfare Organization and the Drug Control Headquarters have also been established. It is also noteworthy to mention the production of products with educational content and the holding of specialized support and judicial meetings on the topic of correcting the attitude of the civil society on the issue of early marriage, with the cooperation of the responsible executive institutions. It should be noted that 28 governmental and non-governmental safe houses across the country are active in supporting female victims of violence, as well as 20 centers for dealing with perpetrators of violence.

➤ Sexual Partner's violence, including sexual violence and marital rape

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- Domestic violence committed by other family members
  - Sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational environments and workplaces
  - Violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (e.g. online sexual harassment, online stalking, sharing confidential images without consent)
  - Femicide/gender-based murders of women and girls
  - Gender-based violence against women in politics, including women's human rights defenders
  - Gender-based violence in the media
  - Gender-based violence in conflict-affected environments
  - Child marriages, early and forced marriages
  - Female genital mutilation
  - Trafficking of women and girls
  - Other forms of violence or harmful practices (please specify)
  - None of the above

**16- In the last five years, what measures has your country prioritized to deal with gender-based violence?**

**In your report, please provide details of up to three specific examples of actions taken, including objectives and scope of actions, target population, budget, impact assessment, lessons learned and links to further information. Please also provide information on measures for specific groups, such as those mentioned in question 3. If necessary and possible, please provide data to support your answers. (Maximum 2 pages)**

- In terms of legislation and civil laws, various measures have been approved to protect women against violence; According to Article 1130 of the law, women can file a divorce petition if their husband acts violently; According to Article 1070 of this law, the consent of the girl and boy is a condition for the validity of the marriage, and Article 1041 of the law makes the marriage of girls under the age of 13 subject to the three conditions of the guardian's permission + compliance with the best interest of the child + permission of the court; Article 50 of the Family Support Law, approved in 1391 SH (March 2012-13 AD), considers non-compliance with the three conditions stipulated in Article 1041 a crime. Regarding

early marriage, we pay attention to the fact that our country has a diverse demographic composition and consists of many subcultures; Therefore, in order to deal with forced and illegal child marriage, the cultural and traditional beliefs related to child marriage must be gradually adapted to the legal requirements, and force cannot be used for this adaptation, and this change is gradually created with cultural evolution; Therefore, even if a legal ban is places, child marriage will continue in illegal form in some subcultures, and if the minimum legal protection for this marriage is lost, we will witness the birth of children without legal identity from the mentioned illegal marriages; In the criminal laws, to protect women against various forms of violence, the following are placed: the criminalization of exploitation of women in the form of human trafficking in the anti-human trafficking law of 1383 SH (March 2004-05), the criminalization of harassment and torture of pregnant women in Article 662 of the Islamic Penal Code approved in 1392 SH (March 2013-14), criminalization of non-consensual sexual intercourse with a sleeping, unconscious and drunk woman in Article 224 of the Islamic Penal Code approved in 1392 SH (March 2013-14), criminalization of sexual intercourse with minor girls by deception, threatening and kidnapping in Article 224 of the Islamic Penal Code approved in 1392 SH (March 2013-14), criminalization of Female mutilation in Article 664 of the Islamic Penal Code approved in 1392 (March 2013-14), provision of damages for a woman in case of committing a crime against her causing sexual disease in Article 660 of the Islamic Penal Code approved 1392 (March 2013-14), criminalization of instances of violence against physical and sexual integrity and mental health of women in articles 669, 670, 706, 707 and 708 of the Islamic Penal Code approved in 1392 (March 2013-14),, the criminalization of damaging a woman's ability to conceive in Article 706 of the Islamic Penal Code approved in 1392 SH (March 2013-14 AD), the intensification of the punishment for the perpetrators of acid attacks and the protection of acid attack victims in the Law on Intensification of the Punishment of Acid Attack Perpetrators and Protection of its Victims approved in 1398 SH (March 2019-20), criminalization of neglect and negligence of parents that lead to child sexual abuse, criminalization of child sexual abuse, combating the impunity of adults towards and child abuse online and on social media in Articles 9 and 10 of the Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents, approved in 1399 SH (March 2020-21), and Combating virtual violence against children and setting up emergency hotlines and judicial measures regarding the violation of children's rights in cyberspace in the Document on the Protection of Children and Adolescents in the Cyberspace, approved in 1400 SH (March 2021-22). As for innovative measures, the following

have been adopted: Issuance of a temporary order by the prosecutor to remove the child from a dangerous environment and transfer to a safe place for immediate and quick protection of the child at risk, issuance of a judicial order to limit the parents' right of visitation, custody, guardianship or conservatorship towards the child and intensifying the punishment of the parents and legal guardians of the child in case of sexual abuse and use of the child in pornography in Articles 22, 35 and 42 of the Law on Protection of Children and Adolescents, approved in 1399 SH (March 2020-21); as for misbehavior and harassment according to hijab laws, it is necessary to mention that the law "Respecting Legitimate Freedoms and Protecting Citizen Rights", approved in 1383 SH (March 2004-05) has obliged all public, revolutionary and military courts, prosecutors, and judicial officials to respect and protect rights the inherent dignity of people while performing legal duties. In addition, the "Bill on upholding women's dignity and protecting them against violence" has been drawn up for the following: fulfill the principles and ideals of the constitution and protect the dignity and status of women, protect women against various types of violent behavior, consolidate the foundations of the family and protect its existence, predict measures, actions, services and empowerments necessary to support women against violence, determining the tasks of the institutions and bodies in charge of combating violence against women, providing a coherent structure to coordinate and monitor the activities of executive bodies, criminalizing new forms of harassment and violation of women's rights, and determining the guarantee of appropriate execution and revising scattered laws in this field. This bill has had been drafted numerous times, and regarding Articles 31, 66, 71 and 77 of the "Protection, dignity and security of women against violence" bill, it should be noted that this version was one of the previous versions of the bill, which is still in the reviewing process.

- With the aim of precision of action and better handling of this rare phenomenon, simultaneously with the activity of the social emergency system 123 welfare in all over the country; Recently, the 1480 system was launched to deal with child abuse and spousal abuse with the help of 400 senior experts and PhDs in psychology and with the participation of the Vice-Chancellor of Women and Family Affairs, which has provided 63 thousand hours of free specialized telephone counseling to 152 thousand people by the end of April 1401. Also, the opening of the 4030 psychological disorders self-assessment telephone system in the welfare organization was one of the government's measures aimed at reducing mental and emotional pressures and reducing crime statistics.

with the aim of due diligence and better handling of the inauspicious phenomenon of violence, in sync with the **Social Emergency Service System** (phone No.123) of the State Welfare Organization throughout the country, recently, a new system (phone No. 1480) was launched to **deal with child and spousal abuse** with the help of 400 senior experts and PhDs in psychology and with the contribution of the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs. The new system has provided 63 thousand hours of free specialized telephone counseling to 152 thousand people by the end of Farvardin 1400 SH (March-April 2020). Also, the establishment of the Telephone System for the Self-Assessment of Psychological Disorders (Phone No. 4030) of the State Welfare Organization is one of the government's measures aiming to reduce mental and psychological pressures and reducing the crime rate.

In this regard, the State Welfare Organization provides free and round-the-clock consultations for dealing with spousal and child abuse and other issues and, if necessary, in accordance with the legal permits obtained, it can execute appropriate protective and legal measures in certain cases.

Due to the Corona epidemic, selected **shelters** and also **safe houses owned by the State Welfare Organization** have been operating while observing health standards and social distancing and have provided services in accordance with its agenda throughout the entirety of the pandemic.

Public awareness, **information dissemination and sensitization** about the phenomenon of domestic violence against women, children, disabled and elderly in the form of text messages and media warnings have been among other special activities during Covid-19 with the joint cooperation and coordination of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, the State Welfare Organization, the Office of Assistant to the President for Citizen Rights, and Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs.

Considering the necessity of social support and empowerment for women and girls who are exposed to harm and violence, the State Welfare Organization has taken steps in this direction by setting up **safe houses** (20 non-governmental, 8 state-owned and 5 centers for working with perpetrators of violence), **health centers** (22 day centers and 30 round-the-clock centers) and **houses of effort (Khane-ye-Talash)** (14 day centers and 27 round-the-clock centers).

Moreover, in the last 2 years, the **project “Working with perpetrators of violence”** was implemented as a pilot in 5 provinces of Gilan, Kurdistan, Fars, Bushehr and Ardabil with the aim of preserving the dignity of women, according to which, instead of women leaving the house, men who commit violence are not allowed entry into home; Therefore, after receiving a court order to summon the person committing violence, the perpetrator receives psychological and counseling services in one of the centers belonging to the State Welfare Organization.

**Special health centers for girls at risk** of harm operate daily (Neday-e-Mehr) and round-the-clock. These centers have the task of identifying girls over 15 and providing psychological services until they return home, while the family also benefits from counseling and support services so that they can accept their child. In these centers, after admitting the family, the condition of the person in question is monitored for up to one year, and wherever the social worker feels there is risk for the girl, he/she provides services in day centers and, if necessary, in round-the-clock centers.

In the last two years, we have witnessed the expansion of the activities of houses of effort (Khane-ye-Talash) to serve socially disadvantaged women aged 15 to 65 on a daily (Rah-e-Novin) and round-the-clock (Talash) basis. In these centers, the main objective is returning women to the normal form of living and capability, so that these women can be returned to normal living conditions disregarding their previous conditions.

- The measures contained in the Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents, approved on 23/02/1399 SH (May 12, 2020 AD), include the consideration of involving children in activities related to human trafficking as a dangerous situation for children including girls under 18 and the government has the duty to support, intervene, and criminalize child trafficking including girls under 18. Furthermore, on this basis, emergency centers are active to support people who are exposed to human trafficking. These centers provide counseling and legal services to these people, as well as medical care if needed. Also, psychological support mechanisms for victims (depression, lack of self-confidence, anxiety, etc.) of trafficking, migration and asylum, especially women and children after entering the country, and support for humanitarian and promotional actions and programs provided by NGOs that are pro immigrants and injured asylum-seekers or victims of trafficking in the form of credit allocation or direct participation in the implementation is on the agenda of the Iranian government.

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- Introduce or strengthen laws on violence against women and their implementation
  - Introduce, update or expand national action plans to end violence against women and girls
  - Provide or strengthen measures to increase women's access to justice (such as the establishment of specialized courts, training for the judiciary and the police, protective orders, compensation and restitution including for cases of femicide)
  - Introduced or strengthened services for survivors of violence (such as shelters, helplines, exclusive health and legal services, judicial services, counseling, housing, socio-economic rehabilitation)
  - Strategies and interventions to prevent violence against women and girls (for example in the education sector, in the media, community mobilization, working with men and boys) have been introduced or strengthened.
  - Impact monitoring and evaluation, including evidence generation and data collection
  - Provide or strengthen measures to improve understanding of the extent, causes and consequences of violence against women among those responsible for implementing measures to end violence against women and girls, including through the collection and use of data from various sources.
  - Other, please specify
  - None of the above

**17- In the last five years, what strategies has your country used to prevent gender-based violence?**

**In your report, please provide details of up to three specific examples, including objectives and scope of actions undertaken, target population, budget, impact assessment, lessons learned and links to further information. Please also provide information on measures for specific groups, such as those mentioned in question 3. If necessary and possible, please provide data to support your answers. (Maximum 2 pages)**

The State Welfare Organization has taken steps in this direction by setting up **safe houses** (20 non-governmental, 8 state-owned and 5 centers for working with perpetrators of violence), **health centers** (22 day centers and 30 round-the-clock centers) and **houses of effort (Khane-ye-Talash)** (14 day centers and 27 round-the-clock centers).

In 2010, due to the fact that these women were exposed to social harm, the aforementioned activity was assigned to the Office of Social Victims. This office provides specialized services to women who have experienced violence or are exposed to violence along with their children who have witnessed these violence with the aim of supporting and empowering them.

**General purpose:**

Support for and empowerment of women and girls who are exposed to violence or have been subjected to violence.

**Specific goals:**

- Providing a safe place for women exposed to violence or who have experienced violence and their children
- Improving the capabilities of women exposed to violence and those who have experienced violence and their families to deal with personal and social issues in critical situations by providing timely specialized services

**Target society:**

Women who have been abused by their husbands and need to receive specialized services, either outpatient or inpatient, along with their children.

**Implementation process:**

- 1- Self admission, referral from social emergency services, referral from judicial-police authorities
- 2- It is mandatory to receive a letter from a forensic doctor stating the physical and mental condition and pregnancy of the clients who need to use the services of the round-the-clock care department.
- 3- Conducting an initial interview with the person asking for services upon arrival
- 4- Social assessment by a social worker, psychological assessment by a psychologist and psychiatrist, health assessment by a doctor, legal assessment by a legal consultant.
- 5- Provision of outpatient and inpatient specialized services in the following fields: social work, psychology, health-treatment, legal affairs, and culture-education-employment and finally follow-up after discharge.



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**Daily services:**

In a situation where a woman who has experienced violence or is subjected to violence has to return to the same house where she is subjected to violence, the social worker prepares a safety plan with the help of the client. Because there is always the possibility of violence repeating itself. The safety plan for each person is specially designed according to the cultural conditions, the age of the victim, the age of the children, the type of violence and the support resources of the victim.

**Accommodation services:**

In situations where a woman has experienced violence or is exposed to violence, her life is in danger and it is not possible to return to her place of residence or the place where she experienced violence. They are temporarily kept in a safe house together with their children for two periods of 4 months by the judge's decision.

**Necessary specialized interventions with perpetrators of violence:**

In order to achieve the goal of controlling and reducing domestic violence and preventing recurrence as well as rebuilding the family in a safe environment, after admitting the target group (women and girls subjected to violence or exposed to violence), measures should be taken regarding the perpetrators as well. Specialized programs stress changing the behavior of perpetrators and make the environment safer for victims. This type of intervention is also part of the specialized interventions of experts in safe houses, which is carried out based on the protocol developed in this regard.

Moreover, in the last 2 years, the **project “Working with perpetrators of violence”** was implemented as a pilot in 5 provinces of Gilan, Kurdistan, Fars, Bushehr, and Ardabil with the aim of preserving the dignity of women, according to which, instead of women leaving the house, men who commit violence are not allowed entry into home; Therefore, after receiving a court order to summon the person committing violence, the perpetrator receives psychological and counseling services in one of the centers belonging to the State Welfare Organization.

- Working with women, men, and couples to improve their skills in interpersonal communication, conflict management, and shared decision making.
- Empowering women and girls to enhance economic independence and access to resources and improve fair relationships in families, communities and society.

- Poverty reduction through interventions that target women or families
- Creating safe environments including schools, workplaces and public spaces
- Promoting non-violent family relationships and positive parenting practices
- Promoting positive attitudes, beliefs, values, and gender equality norms, especially among men and boys.
- Mobilizing community, religious, traditional leaders, politicians, public opinion influencers, journalists or media influencers (such as athletes or celebrities) to influence positive norms
- Increasing public awareness to change attitudes and behaviors
- Promoting the values of gender equality in primary and secondary education, including through comprehensive sex education
- Other, please specify
- None of the above

## Question 19

According to the "Protection of Violence Victims" document, since 1396, the non-governmental sector has been acting more seriously and more actively in the country to deal with sexual violence, maintain and support victims, rehabilitate and empower them, and treat the disorders of the perpetrators. Based on this, under the supervision of the experts of the country's welfare organization, volunteer and expert organizations with experience in this field operate by receiving official licenses. The employees of these organizations have received specialized training and work through receiving government funds and facilities.

*Example:* Support and empowerment center for socially disadvantaged women (Rah Novin), (daily - non-governmental).

## *Introduction and the significance*

In all societies, the issue of women's personal and social harm and its various consequences is a subject that is addressed. Women suffer from deprivation of social opportunities, education, employment, living in chronic poverty, emotional deprivation, violence, and misbehavior. Experiences related to rehabilitation centers have shown that many clients have homes and families, and by applying appropriate specialized interventions, the conditions for their return to the family can be provided by receiving empowerment services. In the rehabilitation and empowerment program of the country's welfare organization, which is more than twenty-five years old, the focus has usually been on 24-hour residential centers for the support of injured women and girls. While in addition to the necessity of 24/7 support centers, it is also necessary to have day care centers so that services are more accessible for the target group.

Experiences related to rehabilitation centers have shown that many of the clients have homes and families, and by applying some appropriate specialized interventions, the conditions for their return to the family can be provided. For example, sometimes by making reforms in the relationships of the client's family members and by registering them in vocational training courses, the basis for relatively stable employment and their return to the family and society can be provided without the need to stay in the center (except for cases where the client really needs residential services). Carrying out such interventions does not necessarily require a stay in rehabilitation centers, and it can be planned in such a way that while the clients are with their families, they are also included in receiving empowerment services. For this reason, there is a need to have centers that apply the conditions of interventions appropriate to their problem. Therefore, the presence of daily rehabilitation centers and admission in them can prevent the occurrence of more injuries that expose this group to serious risks. Keeping this

goal in mind, the Office of the Socially Injured Affairs of the Welfare Organization of the country decided to set up a support center. and empowering socially damaged women (non-governmental and daily) as a new way and with a harm reduction approach.

### *General Goal*

Control and reduce harm related to socially harmed women at individual, family, and community levels.

### *Specific Goals*

- 1 .Providing specialized community-oriented services to reduce social harm.
- 2 .Providing access to support and specialized services for socially disadvantaged women.
- 3 .Using the capacities of the non-governmental sector for the purpose of synergy, reducing the government's responsibility, and attracting the participation of the private sector.
4. Developing service packages to increase the penetration rate of services.

### *Target Groups*

Socially disadvantaged women with a minimum age of 13 years and a maximum age of 60 years and their families.

### *Execution Process*

- 1 .Recognition and acceptance
- 2 .Evaluating and compiling the helping program
- 3 .Providing specialized services and empowerment

4. Empowerment (is a purposeful process during which measures are taken to improve individual, psychological, and social abilities and skills, to feel effective in one's destiny, to gain abilities and skills in life choices, to accept responsibility for the results of one's choices), coordination of individual values with the center's assistance program, and trust in the specialized team (head of the center, social worker, psychologist, trainer, legal expert, etc.) their actions and ability to meet their quality of life and foster effective communication with the family by reducing or eliminating unprotected sexual relations (outside framework of the family).

## Question 20

**The Islamic nature of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the culture of Iranian society** seriously consider the prohibition of sexual misconduct and the exploitation of women in media advertisements, especially social media. Therefore, based on this approach, the issues raised in this question are not significant challenges for Iranian women. Additionally, it should be noted that the laws and regulations preventing the occurrence of the few mentioned instances are seriously enforced by the government and judicial authorities. For example, last year, following the statement by female filmmakers about violence and sexual harassment in the workplace, the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs issued a statement condemning the misconduct mentioned by Iranian filmmakers. It held meetings with Iranian filmmakers and continuously pursued the judiciary to expedite the handling of the mentioned allegations.

Moreover, it is necessary to note that in addition to the laws mentioned in previous questions concerning the criminalization of media crimes, the overall supervision and regulation of advertising and media activities in the country are the responsibility of **the Central Committee of Advertising Organizations**. This committee is the highest policymaking authority in matters related to advertising. Therefore, any inappropriate actions against the interests of the family and social moral values are continuously monitored and addressed.

## Question 21

The Islamic Republic of Iran views education, awareness, and the empowerment of women as a missing link that can rescue women from marginalization, pressure, violence, discrimination, inequality, and more. This is why it has consistently emphasized and focused on women's education and skill development. The government believes that "empowerment" and "capacity building" are the most effective methods to achieve sustainable development. An informed and empowered woman not only rescues herself from poverty, marginalization, and underdevelopment but will also, in the long term, become a factor in the development of her family, community, and country. In this regard, the following examples should be noted:

Every year, independent financial resources are allocated for the implementation of projects related to the empowerment of rural and nomadic women and girls in the country. The national capacity-building employment project, focusing on rural and nomadic women, aims to play a more effective role in agricultural and rural development through capacity building, institutional development, promoting

entrepreneurship, developing sustainable businesses, and ultimately enhancing professional skills in the agricultural sector. This project is being implemented with national efforts by multiple government institutions in rural and nomadic areas across the country, with the objective of empowering rural and nomadic women and girls for economic independence and addressing social and economic vulnerabilities.

**Table 01: Performance Table of Plans and Projects for Developing Agricultural Activities of Rural and Nomadic Women by the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad**

Project title	Unit	Year of activity	Statistics up to the year 1400	
1 Selection of Rural and Nomadic Women Development Facilitators	Person	1378	21824	
2 Training of Rural and Nomadic Women Facilitators	Person Per day	1378	63947	
3 Establishment and Support of Microcredit Funds for Rural and Nomadic Women	Case	1379	4600	
Entrepreneurship Training	Coach	Person	1396	640
Entrepreneurship Training and Business Creation for Rural and Nomadic Women	Person	1396	10223	

4	Production of Certified and Standard Products	Product	1396	750
6	Creation of Home Health Gardens	Site	1397	8356
7	Completion of the Medicinal Plants Value Chain	Site	1398	355
	Reduction of Waste and Production of Home Compos	Site	1400	175
	Silkworm Farming and Mulberry Plantation Development	Numb. Of operators	1394	15250
		Heap/Ton	1394	587
		Seedling/Plant	1394	325511
	Beekeeping and Production of its Products	Person	1398	3090
	Raising domestic Chickens	Person	1398	20
8	Number of Jobs Created Considering Employment-Generating Projects	Person	1397	7000

- Due to the significant number of **refugee and migrant** women in Iran due to its geographical location and the humanitarian commitments of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and because these women are vulnerable in all societies, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers itself obligated to support them based on its ethical and humanitarian principles. To this end, while strengthening laws and penalties against those who harm this group of women (updating



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the Human Trafficking Law adopted in 2004 and criminalizing the trafficking of women and girls, children, and persons with disabilities for exploitation under legal terms such as marriage), providing education and employment for foreign nationals under the third part of the Chapter 5 of the Iranian Labor Law, improving the livelihoods of migrants is targeted to prevent their sexual exploitation and economic exploitation.

- Establishing emergency centers to support individuals exposed to violence, harassment, and human trafficking, where individuals receive counseling, legal services, and medical care.
- Establishing mechanisms for psychological support for victims (depression, low self-esteem, anxiety, etc.), especially migrant women and children.
- Supporting humanitarian and promotional actions of migrant support organizations and asylum seekers' advocates through budget allocation or direct participation in implementation.
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- In the current academic year 2023-2024, the total number of foreign students enrolled in the country's schools is 450,920, of which 276,512 are Afghan nationals enrolled in primary education. Of this number, 146,811 are girls.
- Throughout history, women and girls heading households, whether willingly or unwillingly, have faced numerous challenges and adversities due to their specific life circumstances. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran, with a special supportive approach towards this group of women, has taken strategic steps to prevent violence against them while honoring and empowering them economically, as extensively illustrated in previous cases.
- To reduce domestic violence against **women and young girls**, increasing awareness, providing legal information, enhancing self-efficacy, and

building confidence through educational classes, specialized workshops, publications, and mass media are always recommended. Increasing women's awareness and training in communication skills play a significant role in reducing violence. In many cases of violence, victims are unable to resolve their relationship issues or manage their anger due to insufficient knowledge of their rights. Therefore, educating women, especially before marriage, is deemed crucial in this regard. Moreover, women's awareness of the existence of support centers is essential so that they can benefit from these centers for healing their injuries when the danger arises. Holding self-care workshops with an emphasis on psychological care and awareness of laws and support services is among the recommended actions.

## Question 22

Based on the explicit laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran, political participation and presence in positions of power and decision-making are rights for women. According to the statistical yearbook of the country's administrative system, the total number of official, contractual, fixed-term, and labor force employees at the end of the year 1401 is 2246397, with 1247559 equivalents to 56 percent male and 998838 equivalents to 44 percent female. Therefore, gender equality in employment and workforce utilization is entirely visible in Iran's administrative system. Additionally, the statistics of employees of the administrative system by executive branch and gender at the end of the year 1401 show that 45.90 percent of employed women are in the executive branch, 98.22 percent in the judiciary, 31.13 percent in the legislative branch, and 81.17 percent in non-triad entities.

The employment status of women in managerial and decision-making levels also indicates a growth trend in the appointment of women to managerial positions in our country in recent years. Accordingly, the appointment of women in managerial occupations in 2023 compared to 2020 has more than doubled, from 19597 in 2020 to 42396 in 2023.

455 women managers are active in agencies related to the country's political affairs. In addition, the total number of appointed women in managerial positions in provincial sub-governorates and other provincial organizations and institutions by province until 2023 (October) has reached 7511, and the total number of women in managerial positions in the Ministry of Interior and provincial governorates until 023 (October) has reached 402.

It is worth mentioning that the total number of appointed female managers at various levels of management in institutions related to legal and judicial affairs until 2023 (December) is 6471, and the total number of appointed female managers at various levels of management in institutions related to economic and infrastructure affairs until the month of Dey 1402 is 13015. Additionally, the number of appointed female managers at various levels of management in institutions related to welfare and health until the month of Dey 1402 has reached 16283, and 6171 female managers are active in institutions related to scientific, cultural, and social affairs, and 32,000 women are engaged in managerial positions in the Ministry of Education and country's schools.

In this regard, the following points are noteworthy:

Supplementary Note 2 to Article 5 Amendment and Approval of the Executive Guidelines for the Selection and Appointment of Professional Managers in all Ministries, Government Institutions, State-owned Companies, and Non-

Governmental Public Institutions approved in 2017, which obligated organizations to implement a **30% increase in the number of executive managers by the end of the Sixth Development Plan**. Based on this, by the end of 2021, we have witnessed a **25% increase in the number of female managers** compared to the previous 13% before the implementation of this decree. With the effectiveness of the new government, we are witnessing **a growth in the presence of women in managerial positions in the country to about 30%**.

In addition, **in 2023 (June), the organizational status of the Women's Cultural-Social Council** was approved by the members of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution. This council, which consists of representatives of distinguished women and female leaders of the three branches of government, will act as the headquarters for women and family as one of the four quadruple headquarters of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, directing and overseeing cultural affairs related to women and families and various issues in this area in the fields of thought and decision-making.

In 1400, the National Women and Family **Headquarters upgraded the position of Women's Affairs Consultant in executive agencies**. Accordingly, executive agencies are required to change one of their organizational positions to the Women and Family Affairs Consultant, based on the proposal of the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, within the framework of organizational laws and regulations, and to submit the reorganization plan of women and family affairs of their organization based on the specific duties of consultants, within a three-month period, to the Secretariat of the National Women and Family Headquarters.

The government's decision **obliging women's participation in the administrative councils of executive agencies and high-level decision-making councils of the country**

Holding courses and **workshops on women's governance** with the cooperation of the Islamic Council, Tehran University, Sharif University of Technology and the UNESCO National Authority with the presence of women managers, graduate students, women and family activists in the country, members of organizations non-governmental organization with the aim of empowering and informing women, as well as streamlining and correcting gender stereotypes regarding men's rule.

Holding **3 training workshops for the empowerment of active women in the fields of regional and international management** with the presence of female students, representatives and experts of executive bodies and representatives of active non-governmental organizations (in 2019, about 3,600 people - hours) 1401 equal to 3200 person-hours - 2068 person-hours were trained in 1402).

### Question 23

Although women's share in the formal employment sector is less than 20 percent, women constitute about 12 percent of the CEOs of knowledge-based companies. 2592 women are members of the boards of directors of these companies, and 17 percent of the shares in the country's knowledge-based companies are held by women. These statistics indicate the significant role of women in advanced fields of science, technology, and innovation .

To identify and introduce the capacities, talents, and capabilities of women in scientific and technological fields, and to highlight the valuable role of women in the knowledge-based economy, as well as to introduce the existing capacities in the scientific community of women, successful people and pioneering personalities in top technologies for women, and create a suitable platform for showcasing technological products resulting from women's research in knowledge-based and creative companies, the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology (Innovation and Prosperity Fund) has organized the Chista Festival, the Ideas and Experiences of Women in Science and Technology event (Gap), the Peyvand event, and the Shokofa workshop... Additionally, from December 2018 to the end of 2022, over 20 trillion tomans in contracts have been signed between the government and active companies in the technology sector. Also, in the field of guarantees, so far, 4762 guarantees worth more than 10 trillion tomans have been issued by the country's agent banks, introduced by the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, for knowledge-based companies. In the investment sector, which the fund pursues indirectly, more than 5 trillion tomans have been invested in knowledge-based projects. In the field of empowerment, more than 127 billion tomans have been paid over the past four years for more than 26000 requests from knowledge-based companies. The penetration rate of the fund's services has increased from 38 percent in 2018 to over 62 percent in May 2023. It is worth noting that in 2022, seven percent of the fund's facilities were granted to women active in the technology sector. In empowerment services, 14 percent of the fund's support has been awarded to women active in technology, and this percentage reaches eight percent in the issuance of guarantees, which aligns with the 12 percent share of women in the CEO positions of knowledge-based companies.

Additionally, the joint Kamand plan (an event for the employment, skills, and innovation of female students), with the cooperation of the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology and the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, aims to connect female students and graduates with women entrepreneurs and activists in new technology fields. This initiative introduces successful female role models in this area, facilitating the exchange of experiences and technology transfer in the workplace. So far, three rounds of this program have been held in the country's universities. The first round included universities in 15 provinces, the second round in 16 provinces, and the third round was held nationwide.

## Question 24

### Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs

The budget for this vice presidency in the year 1399 (2020-2021) was 25 billion tomans, which increased by 30% in the year 1400 (2021-2022) to over 32 billion tomans.

In addition to the major and centralized budget allocated to the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs by the country's budget law for the year 1401 (2022-2023), which **increased by 20%** compared to the previous year (38 billion and 201 million tomans), many executive agencies also allocate **targeted and specific budget lines aimed at empowering, improving the situation of, and supporting women from a gender-differentiated perspective**. As a result, women benefit directly or indirectly from these allocations.

These allocations include budgets for: more than 10 single-gender universities in the country, programs for empowering and enhancing women's social participation, programs for evaluating the implementation of policies, plans, and programs related to the status of women and families, enhancing women's job skills, supporting women's NGOs, supporting women's information banks and applied research on women's issues, encouraging female entrepreneurs, researchers, and elites, women's sports development programs, support programs for families of needy prisoners, policy-making and family strengthening programs by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, support programs for female prisoners, childbearing and population support programs, health indicator enhancement programs by the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education, expanding women's sports and recreational activities by the Ministry of Sports and Youth, youth marriage and employment programs by the Ministry of Sports and Youth, rural women's education programs by the Ministry of Labor, Cooperatives, and Social Welfare, child and women's welfare support programs, family support services for female-headed households by the Welfare Organization, programs for the empowerment and social protection of women by the Welfare Organization, and programs for the empowerment and support of disabled and elderly women by the Welfare Organization. We also observe women's health research programs by the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, support and implementation of extensive, sustainable, and productive employment programs with an emphasis on youth, university graduates, and women.

In recent years, **approximately 1% of the total annual budget** of all government agencies has consistently been allocated to women's issues and affairs,



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which other agencies are required to implement and apply for the benefit of women.

Furthermore, according to the amendment to paragraph (h) of note (9) of the single article of the 1402 (2023-2024) budget bill, to achieve the objectives of the Constitution, the Sixth Development Plan, and the general policies of the Seventh Five-Year Plan aimed at strengthening the family institution and removing barriers to women's growth and flourishing, all executive agencies are required to allocate 1% of their operating budgets to issues related to women, such as empowering women without support, supporting childbearing, providing family counseling, supporting women and girls at risk or affected by violence, health, education, sports, and women's entrepreneurship, under the guidance of the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs. It is worth noting that this figure is in addition to the budget allocated to the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, which increased by 51.67% (57 billion and 940 million tomans), as well as the specific programs for women and families in other executive agencies.

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-Yes.

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- Implementation of Article 101 of the Sixth Development Plan Law: Establishing and creating the Gender Justice System.
  - Implementation of Article 102 of the Sixth Development Plan Law: Preparing and issuing family indicators and monitoring the general family policies issued by the Supreme Leader.
  - Drafting and proposing various bills: For amending, completing, updating, and revising the country's laws and regulations.

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- Pursuing the final approval of the Dignity and Protection of Women against Violence and Harm Bill.
  - Establishing the Secretariat of the Comprehensive Statistical System for Women and Family Affairs.
  - Creating the Women and Family Statistical Yearbook.
  - Implementing the national project "Sustainable Family-Based Business": Aiming at empowering women and families.
  - Gender budgeting and allocating 1% of all executive agencies' budgets: For women and family affairs in the year 1402.(2024-2023)
  - Establishing the Population Headquarters.
  - Focusing special attention on female-headed households, single women, women with unsupportive spouses, and divorced women: As the most vulnerable groups through various empowerment and skill-building programs.
  - Creating a guarantee fund for female-headed households without social support in the first to fifth income deciles.
  - Drafting a comprehensive bill for the empowerment of female-headed households.
  - Drafting a strategic document for preventing harm in the field of women and family.
  - Drafting the National Family Counseling Document.
  - Implementing the "Lasting Love" project: Aiming at teaching life skills to rural families.
  - Implementing the "Splendor of Life" project: Targeting the education of couples in the first five years of marriage in five high-risk provinces.
  - Approving the national program for newlyweds: For couples in the first five years of marriage.

- Supporting children's rights at various policy-making levels: Focusing on addressing legal gaps and implementing the National Child and Adolescent Document.
- Expanding international and regional interactions and cooperation: With international organizations and forums.
- Signing and exchanging over 250 cooperation agreement between agencies: To conduct joint actions and programs or outsource targeted activities.
- Weekly meetings with women and girls seeking support.
- Provincial visits: To directly address issues in the field of women and family affairs.

## Question 25

**Table02**

Organization Name	Organizational Position	Notes
Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs	Executive Branch	The head of this center is a member of the cabinet and the Vice President.
Commission for Family, Women, and Youth Affairs	Legislative Branch	An independent faction for women has also been created in the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament).
Cultural and Social	Supreme Council of the	This council elects its

Council for Women	Cultural Revolution (under the supervision of the Supreme Leader)	leadership through elections and representatives from all strategic agencies of the country are present in this council.
Offices for Women's Affairs established in ministries, with the title of Director General or Advisor to the Minister	Executive Branch	These offices have been established in all ministries.
General Directorate of Women's Affairs established in governorates	Executive Branch	These offices are under the direct supervision of the Women's Affairs Office of the Ministry of Interior, and women act as advisors to the governor and directors- general in these offices.
Women and Youth Committee	Expediency Discernment Council	This committee specifically addresses women's and youth issues.
Women's Studies Offices	Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology	These offices, established in universities and reputable research

			institutes in the country, engage in research and education on women's issues, training specialists to enter various legislative and executive fields.
Women's Services Offices	Employment	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	These offices provide services such as employment counseling, entrepreneurship, and legal advice.
General Directorate of Women's Affairs in the Judiciary		Judiciary	Various activities such as social work, legal counseling, follow-up, and women's rights issues are carried out in offices under this department, with about 30 offices established across all provinces.
General Directorate of Human Rights and Women in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs		Ministry of Foreign Affairs	This directorate reviews the human rights situation in Iran and engages with the international community

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in collaboration with policy-making centers, research institutions, and non-governmental organizations

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Women's Affairs Offices in Municipalities  
municipalities across the  
country

These offices operate to promote cultural development and improve the civic conditions of women across the country. Additionally, cultural and sports centers such as cultural centers and neighborhood cultural houses have been established, many of which are exclusively for women and young girls.

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## Question 26

With the approval of the general outlines of the Islamic Republic of Iran's action plans in the field of human rights in domestic and international arenas in 2023, the executive programs in areas such as "monitoring the human rights situation inside and outside the country," "demanding accountability in the field of

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human rights," "holding responsible authorities and executive bodies accountable for people's rights," "identifying human rights violations in executive bodies and working to address them," and "explaining the human rights policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran" have been thoroughly reviewed and finalized within the framework of the **Human Rights Headquarters** Secretariat. The details of this matter will be announced to all executive bodies by the Human Rights Headquarters Secretariat.

It is worth noting that the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs is one of the main members of the country's Human Rights Headquarters, a supranational body that began its activities in 2005 with the approval of the National Security Council. This headquarters operates in close collaboration with members of civil society, non-governmental organizations, representatives of various bodies and institutions in the country, etc. One of the main duties defined for this headquarters is **the protection of the people's rights, especially women's rights.**

To this end, in recent years, the headquarters has focused more on women's issues, continuously monitoring and directly addressing women's challenges.

In the monitoring field during this period, the headquarters has printed and published **reports on women's participation in management and decision-making in Iran, a detailed report on the significant actions and supportive laws for women and their improved status and related achievements in the Islamic Republic of Iran from the victory of the Islamic Revolution until March 2023, visits to women's prisons, continuous receipt of quarterly reports on the status of women and families from the country's bodies and institutions, development of a human rights issues system for vulnerable groups (children, women, people with disabilities, minorities, migrants and**

refugees), and strategic reports aimed at resolving these issues, among other activities.

In the field of directly addressing women's issues during the review period, **the headquarters has continuously and periodically met with members of non-governmental organizations active in women's and family issues** to receive their opinions and suggestions, created **joint working groups to address the problems of Iranian women abroad, held membership in the Supreme Council of Iranians Abroad and actively participated in its meetings** to identify and address challenges, and **established a committee to protect the people's rights** to directly confront issues at the national level, among other tasks.

Additionally, the headquarters has planned meetings with representatives of women scientists, entrepreneurs, faculty members and university professors, representatives of non-governmental organizations active in the field of women and family in the country, representatives of various groups of women such as women workers, women with disabilities, and mothers with the special rapporteur on sanctions of the Human Rights Council to directly confront the challenges arising from unjust sanctions against Iranian women. Continuous interaction with international human rights organizations is also one of the headquarters' actions.

## Question 27

Investigating Opportunities and Creating an Appropriate Platform for Effective Regional Activism and Support for Peaceful Campaigns The Islamic Republic of Iran has established the series of international dialogues on Women, Peace, and Sustainable Security since 2017 in Tehran to explore opportunities and create a



suitable platform for effective regional activism and support for peaceful campaigns aimed at achieving sustainable peace, reducing discrimination and violence against women and girls amid armed conflicts and political crises, reforming destructive and extremist attitudes, and exchanging valuable experiences of women to promote fundamental human values and stabilize the foundations of peace. The Islamic Republic of Iran organized a series of international discourses on women, peace and sustainable security from 1396 in Tehran. So far, three sessions of this program have been held in the form of three international and regional meetings with the participation of senior officials from various countries, scholars and concerned individuals in the field of women, peace, and security, representatives of non-governmental organizations, members of civil societies, and other social stakeholders in Tehran, hosted by the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs.

As one of the major hosts for **refugees and migrants** in recent years due to various reasons including war and insecurity, the Islamic Republic of Iran has hosted about one million refugees. Following the directives of the Supreme Leader (Long may he live) in April 2015, emphasizing the necessity of education for migrant children and support for refugee groups, even illegal migrants with a humanitarian and ethical perspective and from the viewpoint of Islamic compassion, Iran has committed to implementing the following support measures for migrant women and families. These efforts have been repeatedly appreciated by international organizations, including the UNHCR, despite the significant difficulties in receiving international aid due to illegal sanctions.

- Provision of mechanisms for free education for migrant children and refugee students interested in continuing their education.

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- Provision of affordable healthcare and medical opportunities for affected migrants in government hospitals and medical institutions.
  - Creation of employment and entrepreneurship mechanisms for migrants in the country and offering livelihood and employment services to asylum seekers.
  - Establishment of monitoring and information tracking mechanisms regarding the status of migrants.
  - Drafting a memorandum of understanding with Qatar on the education of Afghan women.
  - Holding a series of sessions with international students from Al-Zahra University (Afghan students) to identify capabilities, interests, and needs.
  - Support for the medical education of Afghan women in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
  - Development of a plan to identify prominent Afghan women and efforts to address their issues and utilize their talents for the benefit of Afghan women themselves.

### **Establishment of the National Women and Anti-Corruption Working Group**

- Establishment of the National Women and Anti-Corruption Committee in 2021.
- Participation in the GLO.ACT program by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, and delivering a speech on “The Role of Women Experts and Modern Technologies in Combating Human Trafficking, Especially Women Trafficking.”

- Negotiations with countries and drafting an action plan for "Women and Anti-Corruption" in the capacity of chairing the IORA Economic Empowerment Working Group (Indian Ocean Rim Association).
- Drafting and approving the National Women and Anti-Corruption Working Group bill in the National Women and Family Headquarters in 2022, holding the first international conference on Women and Anti-Corruption in 2022.
- Holding the second international conference on Women and Anti-Corruption in 2023 in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Rim Association.
- Participation in organizing the seminar "Effective Legal Mechanisms to Combat Administrative and Economic Corruption" in collaboration with the Legal Vice Presidency of the President.

## Question 28

The Islamic Republic of Iran has shown special attention and support for civil institutions, with women and family issues being among the main priorities of this approach. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that non-governmental organizations play a significant role in attracting public participation and presence in political and social public spaces due to their strategic perspective.

Currently, there are 2733 women's non-governmental organizations in the country (The activity share of these organizations is 63% in the social-cultural field, 30% in the trade-professional field, and 41% in the charity field), specializing in women and family affairs. These non-governmental organizations actively contribute to achieving gender justice and promote humanitarian and people-oriented goals.

Their presence in policy-making and development programs is of fundamental importance. Supporting humanitarian and promotional actions, supporting organizations aiding migrants and asylum seekers through funding allocation or direct participation in implementation, has been one of the country's most important activities in this regard.

Charities, as an important part of the country's civil society, have focused on empowering people, especially women, and ensuring dignified livelihoods, considering unjust sanctions and psychological and economic warfare against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the United States .

Additionally, the Deputy for Women and Family Affairs, in collaboration with the Iranian Red Crescent Society, has played a significant role in **sending humanitarian aid** to the war-torn people of Afghanistan, Syria, and Gaza. This collaboration has included the preparation and sending of special relief packages for women by working with charitable organizations (e.g., Abshare Atefeha).

Effective activities in earthquakes, floods, and other crises resulting from climate change, as well as effective and humanitarian activities in providing assistance to the oppressed people of Gaza, have led to the Iranian Red Crescent Society receiving the prestigious "Henry Davison" award for the first-time last year in recognition of its humanitarian services. **Network activity statistics indicate that 2 million volunteers (including 140000 elite volunteers) are involved in intermittent voluntary activities, and 990000 active volunteers provide continuous and regular voluntary services in youth and volunteer organizations, with more than half of them being women.** Other joint activities between the International Committee of the Red Cross in Iran and the Iranian Red Crescent Society include providing rehabilitation services to **people with**

**disabilities, especially suffering women and children** (this project started three years ago, and during this period, thousands have been screened and benefited from orthotic and prosthetic services), the "**Water Pledge**" project (aimed at providing safe drinking water to affected areas), the "**Health Caravan**" (providing health services to underprivileged areas of the country and regions affected by human or climatic crises), the "**Yas Project**" (creating employment for single women over 30 from vulnerable groups), **planting 5 million saplings**, and more. The voluntary and benevolent presence of the Red Crescent beyond geographical borders has made this organization one of the top five volunteer organizations in the world. Last year, more than 8,000 volunteer rescuers of the Red Crescent Society were employed by this public institution, with approximately half of them being women.

The unprecedented recruitment of 700,000 young volunteers by the Red Crescent, launching educational and vocational camps for young people as student and university student camps, establishing Yas teams and empowering youth, insuring rescuers and lifesavers, and the prominent presence of young people in social, cultural, and relief activities, launching Red Crescent houses, active participation in national and international relief operations such as Afghanistan earthquake, Pakistan floods, Turkey floods, and Afghan migrants, and receiving medals of sacrifice and merit from Turkey for extensive support for Syrian and Turkish earthquake victims, and obtaining management positions in the International Red Cross are among the humanitarian achievements of the country in the past two years.

It is worth mentioning that we have witnessed a 40% growth in the presence of female rescuers in Red Crescent missions in the past year.

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**Example: Implementation of Yas Plan, a community-centered plan**

This plan began by creating a database of unmarried girls in vulnerable groups in the country's cities, and some interested and qualified individuals were selected from this group. During the first year, a Yas base was launched in each city, and the project's secretariat was also located in South Khorasan.

After formation, these Yas teams undergo training in four areas. The first area is resilience in relief and universal preparedness in the relief sector. In this section, members of the teams are trained in first aid and emergency services during crises. One of the fundamental challenges during any crisis that requires emergency sheltering in disaster-stricken areas is the distribution of food items, relief goods, and tent installation. In the shadow of Yas teams, relief teams are now formed by trusted and trained individuals in neighborhoods among the people, who oversee the distribution of relief items. The second area covered by Yas teams is social services. Many social services are provided in the country, especially in underprivileged areas where people are less aware of the rights and services provided to them by the government. However, Yas facilitators, who receive training in this regard, can engage in public enlightenment and awareness-raising in this area.

Another area of work for Yas teams is social entrepreneurship with a focus on home-based businesses, where trained individuals in this program have become the best educators for vulnerable groups in the most marginalized areas of the country.

Media and cyberspace are the latest areas of work for Yas teams, with all their goals focused on the safe presence and avoidance of risks for young girls in the virtual space and the optimal use of this space in promoting positive and income-

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generating humanitarian goals. After one year of work in the country's provinces, we are now witnessing the formation of a **155-member team**, with each province's share of this total being a five-member team. Three face-to-face courses were held for these individuals as facilitators and supervisors. Currently, the **Yas plan has been launched in 900 Red Crescent houses across the country** and is expected to increase to 4000 Red Crescent houses. While witnessing the self-sufficiency of Yas team members, we also witness the empowerment and training of other vulnerable women and girls in the country. As part of the Yas plan, **30000 girls from families supported in the most deprived areas of the country** have benefited from Red Crescent relief and rescue training, and **so far, 4000 trained girls have been stationed in 900 Red Crescent houses across the country.**

Empowering individuals to participate in collaborative work and enhancing self-esteem through social-centered training, creating coordination and increasing resilience, creating motivation in the field of relief and first aid, and familiarizing with social aspects of accidents and disasters are among the advantages of implementing the plan for girls in marginalized communities in the country.

Furthermore, it must be added that the situation of Afghan refugees here is one of the longest and most protracted asylum crises in the world. Long-term and costly hosting of these refugees and other migrants, **Iran's comprehensive approach to vaccinate all refugees without condition, Iran's nutritional support** in collaboration with the World Food Program (WFP) for some of the most vulnerable Afghan refugees, and other initiatives mentioned previously, are noteworthy given the challenges Iran faces due to sanctions.

**Question 29**

- Measures to combat the trafficking of women, young girls, and children as outlined in the Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents, ratified on 2020 May 12.
  - Anticipation of involving children in activities related to human trafficking as a **hazardous situation** for children, including girls under 18, and the government's obligation to support and intervene.
  - Criminalization of child trafficking, including girls under 18.
- Executive measures on the subject of trafficking:
  - Establishment and operation of emergency centers to support individuals exposed to human trafficking, where counseling and legal services are provided, and necessary medical care is provided if needed.
  - Establishment of psychological support mechanisms for victims (such as depression, lack of self-confidence, anxiety, etc.) of trafficking, migration, and asylum, especially women and children, after entering the country.
  - Support for humanitarian and promotional activities of migrant support organizations and victims of trafficking, in the form of allocating funds or direct participation in implementation.
  - Establishment of a national commission to combat human trafficking by the Ministry of Interior.
  - Cooperation with countries of origin and destination of human trafficking and Interpol police to combat this phenomenon.
- Drafting a bill to amend the Law on Combating Human Trafficking and the Trafficking of Organs and the punishment of unauthorized border crossings:



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In the amendment of the mentioned law, which aims to integrate the penalties amendment bill into the fifth book of the Islamic Penal Code, especially to prevent trafficking and exploitation of women and children, the following dimensions have been considered:

- Trafficking in persons involving exploitation, including sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery, or similar practices, taking into account stricter penalties and a comprehensive approach in determining the elements and material aspects of the crime.
- Criminalization of acts that, under legal pretexts such as temporary marriage, residence, adoption, education, or employment, facilitate the departure of women, girls, children, and persons with disabilities from the country for exploitation.
- Criminalization of the displacement of women, girls, children, and persons with disabilities for exploitation under legal pretexts (such as marriage).
- Strengthening the judicial system regarding women and children:
  - Provision for a separate judicial system for children in the Criminal Procedure Code, ratified on 04/21/2013, in titles such as the establishment of special courts and preliminary investigations for offenses committed by children.
  - Provision for a special judicial system for the benefit of children in risky and vulnerable situations in the Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents, ratified on 05/12/2020.

- Approval of the Children and Adolescents Police Bill on 03/16/2021 by the government and authorization to use female police officers to supervise girls and children under 12.
- Approximately 57924 kilograms of various drugs and psychotropic substances were seized across Iran in April 2021. Therefore, the Anti-Drug Headquarters in the country, in addition to measures to combat and detect various forms of drugs and psychotropic substances, is planning extensive prevention programs in the country through education in schools, universities, and the media.

With the approval of paragraph (r) of Article 85 of the country's 7th development plan bill, in order to improve the social health and security of the country against the threat of narcotics, psychotropic substances and addiction, the duties of related institutions to deal with addiction and narcotics were determined:

1. The Anti-Drug Headquarters is responsible for implementing programs and preventive activities in collaboration with the Ministries of Education, Science, Research and Technology, Health, Treatment and Medical Education, Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, Culture and Islamic Guidance, Sports and Youth, Islamic Azad University, and other non-governmental educational institutions and centers, as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Organization, with the aim of reducing the prevalence of addiction by ten percent (10%) by the end of the program compared to the first year of the program, using scientific methods and modern technologies in educational, work, family, urban, and rural environments, prioritizing the student and university population of the country.
2. The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Welfare Organization and the Prisons Organization, is required to take provisioning and educational

actions in the country, using the capacities of NGOs and the private sector and implementing scientific programs and effective activities in the fields of treatment, rehabilitation, and reducing the harm of addicts, to expand the quantity and quality of treatment centers and reduce harm and improve services in such a way that the number of rehabilitated addicts increases by one percent (1%) annually compared to the first year of the program.

3. The Anti-Drug Headquarters is obliged, in collaboration with the judiciary, to take action to discover and identify the movable and immovable properties and assets of smugglers and networks involved in the production, distribution, and trafficking of drugs, psychotropic substances, and precursors (especially kingpins and networks) both domestically and internationally.

The judiciary is required to seize all properties of smugglers, reduce the backlog of cases, and issue final verdicts in the shortest possible time. It is expected that the financial value resulting from the crackdown on the financial foundations of smugglers during the program's implementation will increase by twenty percent (20%) annually. All proceeds from the sale of these properties and crimes related to the Law on Combating Drugs and its subsequent amendments and annexes will be allocated to relevant executive bodies through the Anti-Drug Headquarters, following treasury circulation, in the form of annual budgets and memoranda of understanding with the Planning and Budget Organization of the country.

4. The Ministry of Interior, in collaboration with the General Staff of the Armed Forces, is required to establish sustainable security in border areas and prevent trafficking, supply, and transit of drugs and psychotropic substances into the country, especially in the eastern borders, through smart automation, blockade, and full hardware and software control of the country's land, air, and

sea borders, in a way that annually, the rate of drug seizures and psychotropic substances in eastern and eastern border areas increases by at least five percent (5%) compared to the base year of 2022.

5. The Anti-Drug Headquarters is obligated to conduct epidemiological studies on addiction every five years to formulate policies and carry out precise, tangible, and timely actions in the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of addicts.

- Basic addiction prevention training for soldiers at the beginning of their service, based on which all conscripts of military training centers in 2021, in collaboration with military and law enforcement units, will be covered under primary addiction prevention training.
- Extensive liaison and cooperation of Iranian Anti-Drug Headquarters officials with countries and the United Nations.
- Production of clips and media documentaries for dissemination in national media and cyberspace.
- Sending informative and educational text messages nationally.

### Question 30

- One of the positive points of children's rights in Iran is that according to the Iranian Constitution, education for all Iranian children and adolescents up to the secondary level is free, and the government is responsible for providing access to education for everyone through the Ministry of Education. This has resulted in the following achievements:
  - Eradicating illiteracy among individuals aged 10 to 49 with a rate of 97 percent.

- Reducing the literacy gap between women and men to less than 6.1 percent.
- Reducing the literacy gap between urban and rural areas to 11 percent.
- Almost eliminating the gender gap in education at the primary and secondary levels.
- Increasing the enrollment rate of female students in primary school by 115 percent.
- Increasing the enrollment rate of female students in high school by 84 percent.
- Increasing the enrollment ratio of female students to male students by 48 percent.

Title	The percentage of education coverage of the country in the group of girls aged 6 to 11 years in three years		
	1399-1400	1400-1401	1401-1402
Percentage of girls' education coverage (primary)	97.58	97.89	98.12
The dropout rate of girls from education (primary)	2.42	2.11	1.88

- Regarding **female genital mutilation**, reference should be made to Article 664 of the Islamic Penal Code, enacted on 21/04/2013. This article defines the

mutilation and infliction of harm on female genitalia as a crime. Fortunately, with the criminalization and widespread awareness of this heinous act, which was limitedly prevalent in some border areas of the country, we have largely witnessed the eradication of this practice in the country.

The implementation of **the National Comprehensive Plan of Children and Adolescents' Rights by 2025**; we see **strategies and executive programs** that were communicated to all executive bodies in 2016, by the National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Ministry of Justice, and the participation of all judicial and executive bodies as well as civil organizations, in the form of a five-year action plan, were prepared and approved by this authority. This document, taking into account all domestic laws and international standards, especially the standards set forth in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, has formulated eleven strategies on the subject of protecting all individuals under 18 years of age and under each strategy, operational programs, activities, and performance indicators have been provided for operationalization. The document, in its strategies, programs, and anticipated activities, has ensured equal protection for all individuals under 18 years of age regardless of gender, and has also provided special protective policies for girls, including protection against violence against women, such as female genital mutilation, exploitation, and child labor, as well as prevention of discrimination. Additionally, the Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents, enacted on 12/05/2020, focusing on supporting all children under 18 years of age, including girls, has been passed, and various forms of violent behaviors, including negligence and indifference causing harm to children (Article 9), physical and non-physical sexual abuse of children (Article 10), trafficking of children for the purpose of prostitution and sexual exploitation

(Article 11), child trafficking (Article 12), and buying and selling of children (Article 13) have also been criminalized, as well as prohibition of child labor.

- In this regard, the Welfare Organization, through inter-agency policies and programs, provides financial and moral support to working children and empowers this group of children. Currently, **child and family support-educational centers** aim to promote the personal, social, and psychological health, quality of life, and social welfare of working children, empower working children and their families (enhance children's educational and vocational abilities, increase job skills, financial abilities, and rehabilitation), improve the quality of services provided using innovative, family-centered, preventive, and participatory approaches, prevent and reduce the risks associated with children's presence and work on the streets for children, prevent and reduce the risks associated with children's presence and work on the streets on families.
- Regarding **early marriage**, according to Article 1070 of this law, the consent of the girl and the boy is a condition for the validity of marriage, and Article 1041 of the Marriage Law considers the marriage of girls under the age of 13 conditionals on three: guardian's consent, child's welfare and court permission. Article 50 of the Family Protection Law, enacted in 2012, considers the failure to observe the three conditions specified in Article 1041 a crime. The judiciary has systematic oversight over these types of marriages based on numerous legal provisions. Therefore, any official registry office that registers marriages without obtaining a certificate or in violation of the regulations of Article 1041 of the Civil Code is liable to be dismissed from service. Also, according to the law, considering the interests and welfare of children and adolescents in all court decisions is mandatory, and courts usually do not easily

approve marriage requests for the preservation of the best interests of adolescents. It should be noted that Iran has a diverse population composition and is made up of various subcultures; therefore, it should be noted that, according to tribal customs and some ethnicities, many cases of marriage at young ages are without sexual intercourse, and this is postponed to older ages. Furthermore, it should be added that to combat early and forced child marriage, gradually cultural and traditional beliefs related to child marriage must be harmonized with legal requirements, and this harmony cannot be achieved through coercion. This long-term change occurs gradually through cultural transformations and awareness-raising; therefore, even if legal prohibitions are envisaged, child marriages will continue in an illegal form in some subcultures, and if there is minimal legal protection against these marriages, we will witness the birth of children without legal identity from such illegal marriages, which will have double consequences for the mother and child.

- Drafting an educational book titled "**Teaching Rights to Students**" aims to increase the personal and social awareness of high school students about their rights. The topics covered in this book are a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Education and the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs. The author introduces adolescents and students to legality and responsibility in this book. They believe that if individuals are aware of their social rights and responsibilities, they can fulfill the obligations that society has placed on them with a sense of responsibility. The book discusses six chapters on individual, citizenship, family, social, economic, and cultural rights, and finally the rights and responsibilities of students in the educational environment.



**Question 31**

Given the awareness of women about their important role in managing energy consumption reduction and consequently reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it can be expected that by utilizing the potential of women in our country, greater positive steps will be taken towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving a greener society in the future.

- **Drafting the book "Human and the Environment" in collaboration between the Environmental Organization and the Ministry of Education to be taught in high schools nationwide**, and including this content in the curriculum of all high schools across the country after 4 years aims to raise awareness among the young generation of the country about preserving their human heritage in the face of climate change.
- **Signing a memorandum of understanding for cooperation between the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs as the responsible authority for women's affairs in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Environmental Protection Organization as the responsible authority for environmental affairs in the country in February of this year with the aim of enhancing environmental ethics and morality for women and families, as well as increasing women's social participation in environmental protection**, reflects the strong determination of the government to involve women more effectively in environmental and climate fields in the country so that, in addition to empowering women, their high capacity in environmental preservation as a common human heritage can be properly utilized.
- **Developing an environmental literacy educational package specifically for teachers, facilitators, and educators.**

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- **Signing a memorandum of understanding for joint cooperation between the Environmental Organization and the Ministry of Education** to lay the groundwork for joint educational collaborations under the title "We Only Have One Earth".
  - **Establishing an environmental conservation field of study in high schools and technical schools** for interested adolescents.
  - **Familiarizing employed women in government agencies** with topics such as "environmental control and monitoring," "crisis management," and "non-military defense".
  - **Appointing women to four terms as deputy heads of the Environmental Protection Organization** as the national authority and decision-maker in this field by women.
  - Leading the regional team concept in Asia by Iranian women.
  - Winning the position of the second region (Asia) representation in the special executive team of the World Meteorological Organization for comprehensive review of the regional concept.
  - Appointing as special advisor for hydrological coordination in the Meteorological Organization.
  - Chairing the task force on services in the second region (Asia) of the World Meteorological Organization.
  - Establishing **250 knowledge-based companies** by women.
  - Having **735 women CEOs in environmental biotechnology**, environmental technology, and energy companies.
  - Allocating **one-fourth of top management positions to women in the Environmental Protection Organization** in the thirteenth government.

- **Having 1171 women working in the country's Environmental Protection Organization.**
- **Allocating 40% of middle management positions in all environmental protection organizations** across the country to women.
- **Allocating 30 management positions in the central headquarters and 40 management positions in the general directorates** of the Meteorological Organization in the provinces to women.
- **Promoting the production and consumption of healthy and standard products** with an emphasis on empowering local communities nationwide in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture by utilizing the capacities of non-governmental organizations to develop cooperative programs.
- **Planning special support packages for women during crises resulting from climate change in the country.**
- **Having 18% of all non-governmental organizations in the country active in the environmental sector.**
- **Planning supportive and empowering programs specifically for certain groups of women in the country, such as female-headed households, rural and tribal women, girls who have dropped out of school, refugee and migrant women, etc., in the face of climate change and natural disasters.**
- **Promoting education in sciences, engineering, and technology for women** by having women in 784 engineering fields.

The plan to promote entrepreneurship and sustainable business development by the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad is executive and leads to the improvement of the knowledge and skills of rural women through the development of educational-promotional programs, familiarizing them with the market and the principles and frameworks and providing the opportunity to participate in

national-provincial and regional exhibitions. It has become for rural and nomadic women. Every year, an average of 150000 people and 300000 people from rural and nomadic women are covered by this program, so that the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran's government in the field of producing healthy products free from toxins and chemicals, considering the relative advantage of rural and nomadic women be realized in the production of such products.

These projects have been implemented to achieve the goals of sustainable agricultural development and the preservation of basic production resources focusing on soil and water, promoting a culture of quality production and desirable consumption, and enhancing food security and safety. It is worth mentioning that the implementation of the aforementioned joint projects has led to various achievements and outcomes, such as capacity building for the production of organic fertilizers and toxin-free products, establishing composting sites and promoting healthy products in all provinces of the country, empowering rural women and girls, especially in the production of healthy and standard products, and implementing specialized agricultural projects involving rural women.

• **Drafting crisis management programs and implementing them during crises with a special focus on women:**

- Providing and distributing special hygiene items for women including underwear and sanitary pads in crisis-affected areas.
- Addressing the mental health problems of women, 60% of whom suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), by social workers and counselors.
- Providing low-interest loans specifically for women by the government to facilitate their return to life.
- Distributing free powdered milk in less privileged areas.

- Constructing safe and hygienic facilities (W.C.s)
- Establishing safe and suitable shelters for temporary accommodation of women in crisis areas (20166 during earthquakes in the current year and 21014 during floods in the year 2021).
- Providing livelihood assistance (monthly allowance) to 299120 households headed by women.
- Paying attention to indigenous culture and packaging and sorting clothing needed by earthquake victims based on the size and age of individuals.
- Prioritizing assistance to provide livelihood for women and children affected in crisis.
- Meeting basic needs (water, food, clothing, blankets, etc.) for 20912 women in earthquake-affected areas in the year 2021 and also for 117072 women in flood-affected areas by the Red Crescent.
- Holding vocational training courses for women in temporary shelters.
- Providing midwifery services and counseling on reproductive health and infectious diseases for women in affected areas.

### Question 32

- Design and implementation of a plan to **enhance the social resilience of women and families** in 31 provinces at 1100 locations nationwide.
- Implementation and support of **executive plans to reduce social damages** with 2000 person-hours of training in **the empowerment plan for social emergency specialists** in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare, as well as the training of 930 facilitators for the

national family dialogue project with a participatory problem-solving approach.

- Implementation of **empowerment and social resilience enhancement plans for women**

and families in 11 provinces through the training of 220 members of Non-Governmental Organizations as local trainers and conducting training courses for 4620 members of local communities in 154 neighborhoods, with an emphasis on marginalized, affected, and vulnerable areas.

- Implementation of **empowerment and social resilience enhancement plans for women and families** in 31 provinces through the training of 500 members of Non-Governmental organizations as local trainers and conducting training courses for 9900 members of local communities in 348 neighborhoods, with an emphasis on marginalized, affected, and vulnerable areas, in cooperation with the offices of women and family affairs of provincial governorates.

- **Increasing women's access to natural resources through the development of women's cooperatives and land allocation to associations**

Currently, 60000 rural and nomadic women have joined 2000 rural and nomadic cooperatives, and some of them have been allocated land through agreements between the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad, the Land Affairs Organization, and the Rural Cooperation Central Organization in the past 5 years.

- **Social development and capacity building in villages through training and support for women as rural and nomadic development facilitators**

Facilitators are voluntary forces chosen by rural women and are taught by training programs in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad. This

program is implemented in villages with over 50 households nationwide. Also, with the implementation of this plan, 81% of eligible villages and nomadic areas have female facilitators, and 6000 individuals have been taught by facilitator training (26183 villages with over 50 households and 21000 villages with facilitators).

**• Institutionalization plan by establishing local microcredit funds for rural and nomadic women**

This plan aims to save and aggregate small capital of rural and nomadic women and provide financial resources in villages with over 100 households. Currently, over 4200 microcredit funds have been established with more than 120000 members and a capital of over 120 billion Rials. Considering that there are 15700 villages with over 1000 households in Iran, and 27% of eligible villages have microcredit funds for women, these funds have provided significant financial assistance to women facing various crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, drought, agricultural damage, etc.

**• Networking of rural women's microcredit funds and establishment of district-level women's microcredit funds** This plan is implemented to increase the bargaining power of microcredit funds, access to markets, access to official credit and financing resources, and to create interaction among members of scattered microcredit funds in different villages. So far, 20 district-level funds have been created, covering 360 microcredit funds with over 13500 members and a capital of over 141 billion Rials.

**• Sustainable business development plan by implementing a systematic business development strategy for rural and nomadic women based on the LNSIE model** This plan, aimed at training rural women and girls in

entrepreneurship, development and improvement of agricultural and rural businesses, commercialization, marketing, market access, familiarity with the licensing process, trademarks, etc., has been implemented in 18 provinces since 2017. Through this program, 649 entrepreneurship coaches have been trained, 10223 women (303,000 person-days) have received entrepreneurship training, and employment has been created for 5275 individuals. This has made rural women and girls, who are one of the most vulnerable groups in society, financially independent and capable, and in many cases has empowered and employed other women.

• **Promotion and culturalization plan for the production and consumption of certified, healthy, and standardized products for rural and nomadic women** This plan, focusing on empowering local communities, aims to familiarize and deepen the knowledge of rural and nomadic women about the production of certified products, optimal use of chemical inputs, promotion of non-chemical and biological inputs, and proper management of soil and water resources. It has been implemented since 2017. By implementing the training and operational plan in rural and nomadic communities nationwide, by the end of 2020, over 449 products have received standard, certification, compliance and test results.

• **Holding participatory training sessions** for local community members nationwide for 60 hours, with an emphasis on marginalized and vulnerable areas, as well as people exposed to crises in various provinces, including earthquake-stricken areas such as Kermanshah, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Hormozgan, flood-affected areas, and marginalized areas affected by drought and water scarcity in Sistan and Baluchestan Province.



- **Conducting vocational training courses for women in temporary shelters**
- **Implementation of psychosocial interventions in disasters and natural disasters** to provide specific services to affected individuals, with a special focus on women and children by the Welfare Organization. In the year 2021, about 243052 individuals have benefited from in-person psychological services, of whom 123872 were women, and 430929 individuals have received non-face-to-face services, of which 324530 were women.

### Question 33

Over the past four decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made concerted efforts within the framework of Islamic principles to advance women in various fields. One of the most fundamental concepts is the necessity of achieving justice between men and women.

Since justice in this context encompasses more than mere equality between the sex, many laws, regulations, and programs have been implemented in the country to this end. Additionally, special laws and positive incentives have been allocated to benefit women, with respect for the differences between men and women to prevent discrimination and injustice based on these differences. Therefore, a strategic program called "**Gender Justice**" has been implemented in the country, based on the Sixth Development Plan, in both executive and legislative forms. A gender justice system has been designed, and after implementation and monitoring of challenges and issues in the field, efforts are underway to ensure its security and update it. Furthermore, the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs has

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submitted a monitoring report on the implementation of this strategic program in a national framework to the government.

Due to the comprehensive nature of women, children, and family issues, the government has prioritized **the promotion of gender justice** in the country's development programs. It has focused on increased collaboration between governmental bodies, as well as the collection and monitoring of women's data. Forming issue-oriented headquarters and preparing thematic statistical reports (supporting documents) are also part of its agenda.

Additionally, recognizing the need for close communication between the executive and legislative branches regarding women and family issues, the government has strengthened the "**National Women and Family Headquarters**" as one of the mechanisms to expedite women's progress.

The National Women and Family Headquarters, chaired by the President and comprising eight ministers and representatives from the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, the representative of the Judiciary Chief and the Parliament, experts, and the Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, has been established. This headquarters, as an extra-constitutional and supra-governmental entity, is authorized under Article 101 of the Sixth Development Plan to utilize all the specialized tools of the country to facilitate and expedite women's development.

Therefore, the secretariat of this headquarters, located in the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, has established specialized interdisciplinary task forces between sectors and sub-sectors, involving all organizations, institutions, universities, managers, and others. Through these task forces, data, proposals, and packages from stakeholders in each area are received, compiled into reports, draft

regulations and bills, and submitted to the official meetings of the National Women and Family Headquarters, resulting in fruitful outcomes in the form of resolutions, regulations, circulars, bills, regarding the improvement of women's status and addressing their challenges.

In this regard, the establishment of a national monitoring and monitoring system for women and family affairs, including sub-systems such as the "**Gender Justice Index System**," "**Executive Body Structures System**," "**National Women and Family Headquarters System**," "**Women Managers Bank System**," "**Family System**," and "**Monitoring System for the Promotion of Women and Family Status in Provinces**," with the design, implementation, and support of gender justice indicators, has been reiterated.

Furthermore, the drafting of a document to improve the status of women and families in the 31 provinces of the country, aimed at identifying the current situation of women and families in each province, as well as the signing of 250 agreements and memoranda of cooperation with various organizations to operationalize and implement gender justice indicators, are among the other measures that can be mentioned.

Last year, the "**System of Women and Family Issues in Iran**" document was prepared by the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, covering 96 components across five economic, social, governance, cultural, and health dimensions. This document has been provided to the Cabinet and the Islamic Consultative Assembly for policymaking, planning, and capacity-building to promote awareness of the mental challenges faced by Iranian women.

Finally, it should be noted that vulnerable groups, emphasized in the third question, include the design and implementation of the "**Unified Window for**

**Welfare Services for Female Heads of Household**" in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare. Also, the national plan **"Family-Centered Sustainable Business Network"** has been developed to support and empower economically vulnerable women, especially those heading households, by providing employment opportunities through training or self-employment loans. Additionally, within this national plan, training, economic empowerment, and employment for female heads of households (widows, divorced, absolute singles over 45 years old), rehabilitation of addicts, the disabled, and socially disadvantaged individuals through support for female entrepreneurs and the development of the performance of women drivers are being carried out, leading to skills training for 5651 and economic empowerment for 3297 female heads of households, widows, divorced, absolute singles over 45 years old, and rehabilitated addicts in 29 provinces of the country in the past two years.

The establishment of the **"Guarantee Fund for Female Heads of Households"** is another action taken to support vulnerable groups of women in income deciles 1 to 5. In this regard, the national project **"Empowerment of Female Heads of Households"** has been developed in line with Article T of Article 80 of the Sixth Development Plan in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare and has been submitted to the Government Legislation Commission in the form of a bill "Empowerment of Female Heads of Households". To this end, and to guarantee facilities for female heads of households, the "Guarantee Fund for Female Heads of Households" has been approved with a deposit of 50 billion Tomans in the National Women and Family Headquarters and is expected to reach 100 billion Tomans.

It is also worth mentioning that in this regard, the national project **"Empowerment of Women with Disabilities"** is currently being implemented

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through education and vocational training in five provinces of the country, and the allocation of resources to the "**National Rural and Tribal Women's Development Fund**" is being pursued in the implementing regulation of the law "Support for Development and Creation of Sustainable Employment in Rural and Tribal Regarding the membership of the general director of women and family affairs of the provinces in the above committee, it is on the agenda.

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-Yes.

### Question 34

Gender budgeting and defining outcome-based projects in the capacity building and empowerment of women are initiatives that have been considered in achieving development goals in the country. One of the main challenges in gender planning over the past two decades has been the failure to achieve gender budgets and consequently the inefficiency in implementing programs and projects. Therefore, various measures have been taken for gender budgeting in national, regional, and local programs in the forthcoming period. The main obstacle in this path has been the failure to realize budgets, and therefore, two strategies have been considered to secure resources in national planning and budgeting:

1. One of the strategies has been to **focus on target groups in national programs**. Experiences show that while policymakers believe national programs are formulated for all members of society, in practice, many marginalized groups, especially women and vulnerable families, receive less

attention, and their access to program benefits is limited. Therefore, the Women and Family Affairs Deputy has included specific groups such as female heads of households, disabled women, marginalized women, and other vulnerable women as priority groups in national development programs.

2. The second strategy involves inviting the private sector and civil society to planning sessions related to women's empowerment and involving both sectors in order to finance projects (private sector) and participate in program implementation and monitoring (civil society). Experiences in program planning to achieve millennium goals in terms of project resource mobilization have shown that government investment alone cannot achieve the desired goals, and until civil society and the private sector participate in these activities, projects and programs will not be sustainable economically or in terms of results. Therefore, this strategy has been included in the government's agenda and the responsible authority for women's affairs in the country.

At the end of this discussion on the country's budget regarding gender balance and women's empowerment, it should be added that, in addition to the major and centralized budget allocated to the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs by the Budget Law of the country in 1401 (2023) (according to the Iranian calendar) with a **20% increase** compared to the previous year, in many executive agencies, **specific and targeted budgets with a gender perspective are allocated to empowerment, improving the situation, and supporting women**. Based on this, women directly or indirectly benefit from it.

Among them, budget allocations include: more than 10 single-sex universities in the country, programs for enhancing women's social participation, evaluation programs for the realization of policies, plans, and programs related to the status of women and families, enhancement of women's job skills, support for women's non-

governmental organizations, support for women's databases and applied research in women's issues, encouragement of female entrepreneurs, researchers, and elites, women's sports development program, support program for needy prisoners' families, family policy and strengthening program of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, support program for female prisoners, support program for childbearing and the country's population, program to improve health indicators, family health promotion programs of the Ministry of Health, support program for women's leisure and recreational activities of the Ministry of Sports and Youth, marriage and employment program for youth of the Ministry of Sports and Youth, rural women's education program of the Ministry of Labor, Cooperation, and Social Welfare, support program for children and women of the Welfare Organization of Iran, program for the development of support services for female-headed households and vulnerable families of the Welfare Organization of Iran, empowerment and social protection program of the Welfare Organization of Iran, empowerment and support program for the disabled and elderly of the Welfare Organization of Iran, women's health research of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology of the President's Office, support and implementation of extensive, sustainable, and productive employment programs with an emphasis on youth, university graduates, and women.

In conclusion, in addition to the major budget allocated to the Women and Family Affairs Deputy by the country's budget law, in recent years, about 1% of the total annual budget of all government agencies has been continuously allocated to women's issues and affairs, which other agencies are obligated to implement for the benefit of women.

Moreover, according to the amendment to paragraph (h) of clause (9) of the single-article of the 2023 budget bill, in order to achieve the goals of the

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Constitution, the Sixth Development Plan, and the general policies of the Seventh Five-Year Plan aimed at strengthening the family institution and removing barriers to the growth and flourishing of women, all executive bodies are obliged to allocate one percent of their budget allocations to women's issues such as empowering single mothers, supporting childbearing, family counseling, supporting women and girls at risk or affected in health, education, sports, and women's entrepreneurship under the guidance of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Family Affairs. It should be noted that this figure, in addition to the budget allocated to the Presidential Deputy for Women and Family Affairs independently and programs specific to the women and family sector, are provided independently.

To monitor the expenditure of the special budget allocated in 2024 Feb., pre-designed monitoring tables have been completed during a series of evaluation sessions with representatives of all authorized agencies of the country, and a national report on this matter has been prepared for submission to the President and the Cabinet, outlining the achievements and challenges of this innovative figure in the latest national budget law.

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-No.

### Question 35

The main approach of the National Women's Authority in this area focuses on advocacy, gender gap policy-making, and inter-agency collaboration to secure



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financial resources. In addition to holding national, provincial, and regional meetings with stakeholders including civil society members, women's rights organizations, think tanks, religious organizations, parliamentary committees, the private sector, intellectuals, and opinion leaders, a portal for receiving public opinions and requests has been defined on the official website of the Deputy for Women and Family Affairs as the national authority and responsible entity for women in the country.

Furthermore, special attention should be paid to "women and girls from marginalized groups." Although the possibility of correspondence with officials in the women and family sector has always been available, in recent years, face-to-face encounters with this group of Iranian women and girls have been made possible during field trips and visits by the Deputy President's delegation. Therefore, Iranian women and girls raise their issues and concerns directly in group and private meetings with the Deputy President. It should be noted that in recent years, the second round of national visits by the Deputy President and her accompanying delegation has begun as part of the provincial trips of the thirteenth government.

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-Yes.

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-Yes.

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### Question 36

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According to the data of the Ministry of Interior for the year 1401, more than 25,000 civil society organizations are active in Iran, among which 2,700 civil society organizations are active in the field of women and family. Based on the published information of the Deputy for Women and Family Affairs as the national authority for women in the country, the number of civil society organizations in the field of women and family has reached 3,500 since the beginning of the thirteenth government until today. These statistics indicate Iran's firm determination to mobilize society and utilize the capacity of civil society elites in the country.

In response to the issues raised in this document, the Deputy for Women and Family Affairs has engaged in continuous and special approaches to periodic review and collaboration regarding the Beijing Platform for Action.

With a special focus on Beijing Declaration, the Deputy for Women's Affairs has organized a series of meetings with civil society members to raise awareness, advocate, and receive their opinions and concerns.

In the process of operational performance with a continuous approach, the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, in addition to conducting numerous capacity-building workshops for civil society organizations, has signed joint cooperation agreements and organized various joint programs with them:

- Conducting regional educational and capacity-building workshops for approximately 1200 active organizations in the field of women and family social affairs.
- Organizing more than 5 national training courses for members of civil society organizations in the women and family sector with the aim of empowering them for international advocacy

- Implementing over 200 joint projects nationwide
- Signing 40 cooperation agreements to develop areas of mutual cooperation and resource enhancement
- Establishing a database of civil society organizations in the field of employment and entrepreneurship
- Holding multiple sessions for identifying issues, challenges, weaknesses, and strengths in the women and family sector with civil society organizations during provincial trips of the Deputy President
- Continuous public meetings of the Deputy President with women
- Regular meetings of the Deputy President with intellectuals, elites, entrepreneurs, managers, officials, and women in the country.

### Question 37

The interim report of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the third cycle review of the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran for the years 2021-2020 has been prepared by the Human Rights Headquarters Committee of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Human Rights Headquarters, as the national human rights authority inside and outside Iran, has voluntarily undertaken to present the significant achievements and advancements in the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of the recommendations of the UNPR with the collaboration of the National Committee of the UNPR composed of more than 80 ministries and government agencies, in the form of a midterm report. It is worth mentioning that civil society organizations and intellectuals, members of the country's civil society, have been consulted several times along this path.

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The following points are noteworthy regarding the accepted recommendations:

- A bill to establish a national human rights and citizenship institution was sent to the Islamic Consultative Assembly in August 1400, and this bill is under consideration by the Legal and Judicial Commission of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. Although the Islamic Republic of Iran is among the few countries that have established various structures to support and promote human rights, such as the Human Rights Headquarters, the Committee on Religious Minorities of the Ministry of Interior, the Human Rights Committee of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the Article 90 Commission of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Special Complaints Committee, the Central Monitoring Board for the Preservation of Citizenship Rights of the Judiciary, the Special Assistant to the President for Citizenship Rights, the President's Advisor on Religious Minorities and Ethnic Groups, the Complaints Handling Center at the General Inspectorate Organization of the Country.
- In addition to special procedures and thematic rapporteurs, the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been based on constructive interaction. Also, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations and the Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measure traveled to Iran.
- It is worth mentioning that the permanent missions of the Islamic Republic of Iran in New York and Geneva have always directly and openly engaged in interaction with special rapporteurs, and efforts have been made to clarify ambiguities formally and diligently. Undoubtedly, this trend of constructive interaction with international bodies will continue in the country's future programs.

**Question 38****Establishment of the Comprehensive Statistical System Secretariat for Women and Family Affairs in the Country:**

- **Establishment of a statistical committee in the field of women and family affairs**
- **Establishment of organizational structures for the Secretariat of the Comprehensive Statistical System - Census of 429 Women and Family Indicators with the participation of representatives from responsible statistical agencies in the country**
- **Update of the gender justice system to secure the new management dashboard of gender justice indicators**
- **Compilation of a comprehensive report on the status of gender justice in the country from 2017 to 2022**
- **Compilation of the annual statistical yearbook for women and family affairs**
- **Compilation of a comprehensive atlas for family strengthening and identifying barriers to women's growth**
- **Compilation of an atlas of women managers in the country**
- **Compilation of the status of women in higher education**
- **Compilation of an atlas of female-headed households**

In the sixty-first session of the National Statistics Council (dated 11/21/2022), a new **committee on statistical subdivision in the field of women and family affairs** was approved, and in the first meeting of this committee, the general framework for the compilation of **the specialized statistical yearbook for women**

**and family affairs** was approved. Therefore, this yearbook is divided into two sections: general statistics in the fields of population, human resources, education, and health care from 2017 to 2022, as well as the performance statistics of the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs in 2022 in order to meet the statistical needs of decision-makers, planners, researchers, and other stakeholders, and has been formulated and provided to officials and applicants. In this report, justice indicators in economic, social, cultural, educational, health, infrastructural, and gender fields are presented in collaboration with the Statistical Center of Iran

### Question 39

In this regard, with the approval of the Cabinet and the resolution of the National Women and Family Headquarters, the responsibilities of all executive agencies of the country under the title of "Gender Justice Indicators" have been announced, and the Deputy for Women and Family Affairs is obliged to continuously monitor and supervise the implementation process of the programs of the agencies, in addition to establishing a comprehensive statistical system for the women and family sector in the country under the Deputy for Women and Family Affairs and the Statistical Center. It is expected that in the near future, we will witness the streamlining and strengthening of the process of formulating policies and implementing gender-sensitive programs and projects in the country.

Furthermore, with continuous monitoring of the gender justice dashboard and receiving feedback, challenges, and potential problems, inter-organizational coordination mechanisms in the country have been more seriously identified, and it is hoped that in the long run, groundwork will be laid for designing more laws and regulations aimed at promoting gender statistical development.

**Question 40**

Yes, until 2022, the Management and Planning Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran was obligated to annually collect data and statistics from agencies and institutions and compile a national report in this field, and in some cases, the data collection process was carried out. With the advent of the new government and changes in the internal structure of the country's executive bodies, the responsibilities and institutions involved have undergone changes, which it is hoped will accelerate the country's development process through indigenization and greater attention to cultural diversity.

**Question 41**

In the Sixth Development Plan Law, in addition to Articles 101 and 102 specifically addressing women's issues, there are other articles in various sections such as the judiciary, health and hygiene, culture, art, and sports that address various issues related to women and families. Generally, this law, which encompasses the country's five-year plan and is still in effect until the approval and implementation of the seventh development plan in the country, considers gender impact assessments and, by obligating the Deputy for Women and Family Affairs to determine gender justice indicators and monitor their implementation after announcement, aims to achieve gender justice goals and address the widespread challenge of the lack of gender-based statistical resources and data in the planning and monitoring processes of both the Beijing Action Plan and Sustainable Development Goals.

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The main axes of gender justice indicators include education and research, health and well-being, rights and security, population and family, work and economy, social support, policy, and culture. For these eight axes, 87 indicators on gender justice have been finalized as the top priority. To finalize these indicators, representatives of executive bodies and various ministries have considered the expert opinions of their respective organizations.

To implement and achieve gender justice in executive bodies, prioritization has been carried out, with the most important being the prioritization of marginalized groups in gender analysis, preparation and presentation of reports on indicators based on gender data, and considering local, regional, and national levels in data classification.

To this end, the Deputy for Women and Family Affairs, based on the decision of the National Women and Family Headquarters, has obliged all executive bodies and ministries to implement these indicators in accordance with Articles 101 and 102 of the Sixth Development Plan Law. In addition, updating the software of the gender justice indicators monitoring system or dashboard, which has been in operation for more than 3 years and its challenges and weaknesses have been identified, has been underway since last year under the supervision of the Deputy for Women and Family Affairs.

Article 101 of the Sixth Development Plan Law emphasizes the mainstreaming of gender justice in various dimensions of the country's executive branch. To this end, tasks have been assigned to various bodies, and so far, we have seen the loading of data related to 177 sub-indicators of gender justice by the country's agencies in the 2021-2022 timeframe, as well as the piloting and uploading of



some agencies' programs to improve the status of gender justice indicators in the country.

## Question 42

**Education:** Based on national and global data and statistics, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that women's education is a missing link in social, cultural and economic development in the country and has successfully reduced the gender gap in education at both primary and secondary levels to nearly zero. Overall, the dropout rate for girls decreased by 2% in the year 2023-2024. The Deputy for Women and Family Affairs and the Ministry of Education have collaborated to further reduce this number to zero **by involving national and provincial executive bodies in providing the necessary funding and facilities for formal and non-formal education of these children** through the signing of memoranda of understanding and joint cooperation agreements.

**Gender budgeting:** By allocating one percent of the budget of all executive bodies in the country to women and family programs in addition to the centralized budget of the Deputy for Women and Family Affairs and other active bodies in women's issues in the country.

**Gender justice:** One of the government's most important achievements in the field of women is the development and approval of gender justice indicators based on the holy law and the policies of the Supreme Leader of the Revolution. In this regard, achieving gender justice has been realized by presenting indicators and

preparing an identity card in 31 provinces, where a chapter on education has been allocated, reflecting multiple axes of gender justice indicators. Establishing the groundwork for implementing gender justice in plans, policies, and programs of executive bodies (subject to Article 101 of the Sixth Development Plan Law) by the National Women and Family Headquarters through the development of gender justice indicators and sub-indicators and their dissemination to all executive bodies and the establishment of a system to receive reports from executive bodies on their implementation and performance is essential.

***Monitoring and statistical monitoring of women's issues:*** Having a comprehensive statistical system is one of the serious demands and requirements in the field of women and family, since by using this comprehensive system, all fields of women can be accessed. To this end, with the approval of the National Women and Family Headquarters, the development of a comprehensive statistical system for women and families by gender, in collaboration with all executive bodies, for the integration of relevant statistical data and the design of the women and family ecosystem and a special atlas of women in various sections has been put on the agenda of the Deputy for Women and Family Affairs. The establishment of a Women and Family Statistics Subcommittee under the Statistical Center of Iran and the launch of a statistical secretariat for the integration of the database are among the initial steps in this regard.

***Review, amendment, and completion of laws and regulations in the field of women and family:*** In the legislative aspect, in the upper laws, the Constitution in Articles 9 and 14, Article 3, and Principles 19 and 20 emphasizes "elimination of discrimination," "protection of individuals' rights and equality before the law," "everyone's enjoyment of equal rights," and "equal legal protection." Also, in Article 21, paragraph 1, the government is obligated to provide the necessary

groundwork for realizing women's rights in all dimensions; "General Policies of the Sixth Development Plan," enacted in 1394, emphasizes the realization of women's legal rights, and the "General Policies of the Seventh Development Plan," enacted in 1401, emphasize "removing barriers to the growth and flourishing of women." Part (9) of Article 10 of the "General Legislative Policies," enacted in 1398, emphasizes "preventing unjust discrimination" in the legislative process and considers it a legislative principle; in developmental laws, the "Sixth Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran," approved in 1395, in Article 101, obliges executive bodies to apply the "gender justice approach" in their policies, programs, and plans for sustainable development. The Deputy for Women and Family Affairs is required to annually submit a report on the achievement of the gender justice approach in executive bodies to the parliament and the Council of Ministers; in ordinary regulations the law on reducing the working hours of working women with special conditions, approved in 2015, aims to protect the employment status of women with disabled children, and according to the law amending the law on determining the citizenship status of children born from the marriage of Iranian women with foreign men, approved in 2018, an Iranian mother can apply for citizenship and choose an Iranian citizenship for her child and the aforementioned authorities will recognize her child's Iranian citizenship according to this law; the "Regulations for the Implementation of Article 101 of the Sixth Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran," enacted in 1397 by the Council of Ministers, requires executive bodies to develop a restructuring plan for women's affairs in their organizations. Also, the Deputy for Women and Family Affairs has notified the executive bodies of the gender justice indicators and sub-indicators for the implementation of Article 101 of the Sixth Development Plan Law. One of the

focuses of this document is "political participation and decision-making" with the main component being "women's participation in decision-making and management" and the level of women's appointment to managerial positions; in innovative actions, the "Transformation of the People's Government" document, approved in 1400, which is the "Action Plan of the Thirteenth Government," emphasizes amending regulations related to women's issues, including the exit of married women from the country, inheritance, enhancing the individual capabilities of women, and strengthening the executive structures of the women's sector; the "Resolution on the Establishment of the Women and Family Affairs Advisor Position in Executive Bodies," with the aim of promoting women's participation in decision-making managerial positions, was approved by the Council of Ministers in 1401, and it emphasizes "continuous monitoring of policies, plans, laws, regulations, and programs related to the women's sector in executive bodies, identifying obstacles, and providing specialized solutions"; the comprehensive national plan for restructuring the employment status of women, approved in 1401 by the National Women and Family Headquarters, emphasizes achieving a balance between women's family and occupational responsibilities.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to seriously pursuing the achievement of **comprehensive justice**, which is emphasized in the Constitution and the Sharia law, and undoubtedly, for the realization of this matter, special attention to **women's and girls' education and their skills and empowerment** is key, which has received special attention. In conclusion, the review of actions taken in recent years in the field of women shows that governments have taken effective measures to achieve the goals and axes of the Beijing Declaration. It seems that in this regard, **attention to cultural and national differences, respect for the different public and private decisions of women, support for and**

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**preservation of the sacred institution of the family with the guarantee of full participation of women in society, and...** is a matter that needs to be seriously consider

