

Concluding Observation Committee on the Rights of the Child CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4 para 18(a)

Full recommendation:

Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the budget needs of children and allocate adequate budgetary resources, in accordance with article 4 of the Convention, for the implementation of children's rights, and in particular, increase the budget allocated to social sectors and address disparities on the basis of indicators related to children's rights.

Assessment using Impact Iran human rights indicators¹

A. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the budget needs of children.

To date, there is no indication that Iranian agencies have conducted a systematic and comprehensive assessment of the budget needs of children. This inaction can be, reportedly, explained by the lack of a centralized body responsible for planning for children's needs. Currently, responsibility for various aspects of children's rights and welfare is scattered across different government institutions. For example, institutions such as the National Welfare Organization, the Imam Khomeini's Relief Committee, the Judiciary, the Police, the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Health, and the Islamic Republic Broadcasting, each are involved in the subject matter, in accordance with the Child and Adolescent Protection Law.²

Additionally, the structure of the national budget in Iran illustrates a deficit regarding children and their rights because their rights are subsumed under the umbrella of the "family".³ Most of the programs defined in the budget are called "support programs", with a focus on livelihoods that have been considered in the form of "families".⁴

The Child and Adolescent Protection Law, approved in May 2020, provides opportunity for State institutions to analyse children's needs, such as freedom from abuse, economic exploitation and neglect.⁵ Under Article 4 of that law, the Judiciary Office for the Protection of Children and Adolescents may prepare cases or periodic reports, conduct statistical and information studies, and

¹ CRC.6.2.S.2; CRC.8.2.S.1; CRC.9.1.S.2; CRC.19.2.S.2
CRC. 6.2.P.3; CRC.19.2.P.3
CRC.19.2.O.1; CRC.19.2.O.2

² Child and Adolescent Protection Law, 12 May 2020: <https://shenasname.ir/laws/6788>

³ Details of the budgets for the last 5 years have been examined to this end. After the final approval, the country's budget is published in the form of a booklet "Budget Law" every year. For example, this report reviewed the proposed budget for new year (1400) and analyzed the share of budgets that allocated to women and family, which children is included.
<https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/report/show/1636239>

⁴ <https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/report/show/1636239>

⁵ Child and Adolescent Protection Law, 12 May 2020: <https://shenasname.ir/laws/6788>

monitor and evaluate the activities of provincial and city offices regarding the implementation of this law in the Judiciary. It remains unclear whether information gathered by this institution, specifically related to cases of children not receiving support from the State (preferably disaggregated by age, ethnicity, nationality, race and gender), is utilized to calculate the budgetary needs of children.

B. Allocate adequate budgetary resources for the implementation of children's rights, and in particular, increase the budget allocated to social sectors and address disparities on the basis of indicators related to children's rights.

Every year when Iran's budget bill is published, prominent experts have discussed budgetary deficiencies or cuts concerning children. There are no additional details demonstrating what programs or budget lines were initially proposed by relevant agencies, or at what point, by whom, or why these programs, or budget lines, were cut from the final national budget. In practice, the Iranian government has not adjusted its budgeting approach to prioritize the funding of children's rights related programs and policies.⁶

Furthermore, details on the appropriation of existing State funds remains limited. Consequently, it is difficult to evaluate if existing programs have provided an adequate budget for implementing children's rights, particularly in the social sectors (including provision of necessary support for the child and for those with care of the child) or if disparities, based on indicators for children's rights, have been addressed.

In 2009, the Iranian government established the "National Body on the Convention on the Rights of the Child", within the Ministry of Justice. This body is tasked with establishing coordination between different public institutions in order to implement recommendations on children's rights.⁷ Yet, due to lack of publicly available information, the performance of this institution cannot be evaluated.

Recommendation Status:

This recommendation has **NOT** been implemented.

⁶ The head of the Iranian Social Welfare Association announced: "Worrying reduction of children's budget in 1399", Quds Newspaper: <http://www.qudsonline.ir/news/692588/>; Experts stated: "Children, forgotten in the law and budget of 2019 / The need for social protection of children", Iqna News Agency: <https://iqna.ir/fa/news/3794908/>

⁷ The National Body on the Convention on the Rights of the Child: <https://www.justice.ir/en>