

## Concluding Observation Committee on the Rights of the Child CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4 para 68(c)

### Full recommendation

*Take immediate measures to ensure that children with disabilities have access to health care, including early detection and intervention programmes.*

### Assessment using Impact Iran human rights indicators<sup>1</sup>

Adopted in March 2018, the Comprehensive Law on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities guarantees fundamental rights and privileges for persons with disabilities in areas such as access to health care, accessibility, education, rehabilitation, and employment. While the law does not specifically mention children, it protects the rights of all persons with disabilities.

According to Article 6 of the Law, the Ministry of Health is required to provide health insurance coverage for persons with disabilities, in addition to the coverage provided by the Welfare Organization.<sup>2</sup> Though individuals with disabilities receive coverage from the Ministry of Health and the Welfare Organization, reports indicate it remains limited and that families struggle to pay the extra costs associated with health care services for individuals with special needs.<sup>3</sup> The continued struggle to pay for these costs suggests that the health insurance provided by the Health Ministry and the Welfare Organization is insufficient.

As of February 2021, a number of programs targeting persons with disabilities are currently implemented in Iran under the supervision of the department of Prevention of the Welfare Organization. They notably include detection and intervention programmes or the Disability Prevention Programs.<sup>4</sup> Among them there are: Programs to prevent lazy eyes in order to reduce blindness and low vision; Screening program for diagnosis and intervention during hearing of infants and infants; Disability prevention awareness program; Program for the prevention of disabilities caused by genetic disorders.

Statistics provided by the Welfare Organization<sup>5</sup> indicate that, in 2019, the Organization registered more than 1,590,000 people with disabilities. These statistics also show that at least 482,000 children with disabilities have been identified through the Community Based

<sup>1</sup> CRC.25.S.1; CRC.25.S.2; CRC.28.1.S.1; CRC.28.4.S.1  
CRC.25.P.1; CRC.25.P.3; ESCR.13.2.P.2  
CRC.25.O.3; ESCR.13.1.O.3

<sup>2</sup> < <http://www.behzisti.ir/news/11913/> >

<sup>3</sup> < <https://www.parsnews.com/fa/tiny/news-289989> > and < <https://shoaresal.ir/fa/news/81035/> >

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.behzisti.ir/news/24830/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.behzisti.ir/news/11295/>

Rehabilitation program<sup>6</sup>, which is implemented in most provinces of Iran by the Welfare Organization and its partners. Statistics also indicate that about 9,900 children are covered by "Atieh Insurance" (supplementary insurance). Meanwhile, the same statistics show that the Welfare Organization covers about 75,000 students with disabilities. Accurate statistics are not readily available for uninsured children. On the other hand, Human Rights Watch estimated 1.5 million children with disabilities of school age.

Insufficient funding has been a major issue in implementing the law and programmes to ensure that persons with disabilities, including children, access health care.<sup>7</sup> Insurance companies and responsible ministries have refused to add health care services due to the insufficient budget.<sup>8</sup> Government programs have occasionally allocated financial aid and services to those with disabilities, including monthly stipends and cost coverage of nurses and social service employees, like social workers and homecare workers. However, these programs depend on the yearly allocated budget which has not been consistent each year due to limited available funds.<sup>9</sup>

Since the adoption of the law, funding necessary for the full implementation of the law and programmes has not been allocated<sup>10</sup>, causing them to be essentially ineffective to ensure access to health care to persons with disabilities, including children.<sup>11</sup> Reports suggest that, as of January 2021, only one-sixth of the funding required by the law has been funded.<sup>12 13</sup> According to Welfare Organizations' officials, only 18.5 percent of the budget needed for persons with disabilities is allocated in the new year's budget.<sup>14</sup> Programs and health care services that benefit those with disabilities remain underfunded and insufficient. This insufficiency reduces the impact of programs aimed at benefiting those with disabilities because it renders them practically unreliable, as they do not receive consistent funding year to year, and fails to provide consistent assistance to those with disabilities seeking access to health care, including children requiring these services.

#### Recommendation Status:

This recommendation has been **PARTIALLY** implemented

<sup>6</sup> The role of CBR is to promote, support and implement rehabilitation activities at the community level and facilitate referrals to access more specialized rehabilitation services. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK310933/>

<sup>7</sup> < <https://www.ilna.news/fa/tiny/news-844559> >

<sup>8</sup> < <http://www.chabokonline.com/fa/tiny/news-673> > and < <https://www.asriran.com/001H1O> >

<sup>9</sup> For example the administration allocated an aid for families who has person with disabilities among their members: < <https://ana.press/fa/news/40/515487/> >

<sup>10</sup> < <http://www.kargarnews.ir/fa/pages/?cid=46810> >

<sup>11</sup> < <https://www.eghtesadonline.com/n/23Oa> > and < <http://www.pana.ir/news/973129> >

<sup>12</sup> < <http://www.salamatnews.com/news/276410/> > and < <https://p.dw.com/p/3U1Wn> > and < <https://p.dw.com/p/3U9eu> > and < <http://www.iran.ir/news/83661478/> >

<sup>13</sup> < <https://iqna.ir/00FvEC> > and < [www.khabaronline.ir/news/746840](http://www.khabaronline.ir/news/746840) > and < <https://www.eghtesadonline.com/n/282a> > and < [www.iran.ir/news/83502552/](http://www.iran.ir/news/83502552/) >

<sup>14</sup> < <https://www.ilna.news/fa/tiny/news-844559> >