

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEE AND MIGRANTS IN ACCESSING THE HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME



IOM Iran staff enrolling migrants and refugees in the national insurance scheme, Yazd

As part of its Health Activities, IOM Iran facilitated the enrollment of 600 refugees and migrants residing in the province of Yazd into the health insurance scheme of the country.

IOM delivers and promotes comprehensive, preventive and curative health programmes for migrants and mobile populations, aiming to bridge the needs of both beneficiaries and IOM member states.

In Iran, IOM is working to ensure that migrants and affected populations have access to primary healthcare, by providing essential health equipment, enhancing the infrastructure of healthcare facilities, and ensuring that all individuals have access to health services.

For this project, implemented thanks to the support of the Government of Japan, IOM Iran adopted a needs-based approach and carried out field assessments in different locations in coordination with the Ministry of Interior (MOI) and its Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA).

This resulted in the identification of a caseload of vulnerable households as the project's target group. Subsequently, IOM staff procured 1200 gift cards through which 600 beneficiaries could pay the insurance premium and assisted them through the enrollment process, addressing each family's concern on a case-by-case basis.

In addition to this project, IOM Iran has been active in the field of health and WASH by providing hygiene kits to 1,000 vulnerable households at the Rafsanjan settlement, Kerman province, and by improving sanitation facilities for migrants and refugees in the Saveh settlement, Markazi province.



IOM Iran staff providing hygiene packages to Afghan migrants and refugees

In Iran, holders of the Foreign Nationals Temporary Residence Card (Amayesh card) can access to health insurance, but many individuals are unable to access this service due to their undocumented status, which can prevent them from seeking medical attention when needed.

Therefore, IOM is working to make sure that both Amayesh card holders and head-counted Afghans are enrolled to the health insurance scheme. By covering the costs of the insurance premium fee, IOM is helping to ensure that even the most vulnerable members of the Afghan community in Iran can access the healthcare they need.

IOM is also working to improve infrastructure and health facilities where they are most needed.

QUOTE

The global community should acknowledge the efforts made by the Government of Iran towards the people of Afghanistan. We ought to do more to support Iran in bearing the weight of such a large Afghan coming with mixed vulnerabilities and needs.

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