

COUNTRY FACT SHEET
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
(2016)

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Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION	1
1. To do before the return:	1
2. To do immediately after the return:	1
II. HEALTH CARE	2
1. Health care system	2
2. Medical treatment and availability and costs of medication	2
III. LABOR MARKET AND EMPLOYMENT	3
1. Labour market situation	3
2. Ways/assistance to find employment	4
3. Unemployment assistance.....	4
IV HOUSING.....	4
1. Housing situation	4
2. Ways / assistance to find accommodation	5
3. Social grants for housing	5
V. SOCIAL WELFARE	5
1. Social welfare system	5
2. Pension system	5
3. Vulnerable Persons	6
VI. EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM	6
1. Educational system.....	6
2. Access and registration procedure, especially for returnees.....	7
3. Costs, loans and stipends.....	7
4. Approval and verification of foreign diplomas.....	7
VII. CONCRETE SUPPORT FOR RETURNEES.....	7
1. Reintegration assistance programs	7
2. Financial and administrative support	7
3. Support to start income generating activities.....	8
VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION AND USEFUL LINKS	8
Emergency contacts.....	9
Police: 110 ; Emergency: 115 ; Information: 118 ; Fire: 125 ; Taxi: 133 ; Drugs info: 147 ;	9

I. INTRODUCTION

1. To do before the return:

The returnee should:

- request documents from the German authorities that might be needed later on, which show the returnee's citizenship status in Germany as well as attended vocational trainings.
- have a valid travel document / laissez-passer.
- get information concerning the arrival at the airport and the onward journey:
 - Rail system: Train connections are mainly from Tehran to other major cities, as well as to Turkey, Pakistan and the Republic of Azerbaijan. Further information regarding Iranian Railways as well as timetables and booking can be found on the homepage of Iran Railways: <http://www.raja.ir/>
 - Flights: Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKIA) also known as Tehran-IKIA or IKIA, is the main international airport of Iran, located 30 kilometres (19 miles) southwest of the city of Tehran, is designed to replace Mehrabad International Airport, which is in the west of the city, now inside the city boundaries. Most of international flights are taking place from/to IKIA. Mehrabad airport is designated for domestic flights. There are taxis and buses available 24/7 between two airports.
- check vaccinations (especially for children). These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and the yearly flu shot. However, no special vaccination is needed to (re)-enter the country. All travellers with children should know how to treat minor ailments and when to seek medical treatment.
- find a temporary accommodation: Hotels and guest houses are available in every city in Iran, from IRR 1,000,000 to IRR 20,000,0000 per night depending on the place and the quality of services. The returnee can ask a taxi to take him/her to a hotel according to the budget. Further information at <http://www.irantravelingcenter.com/iran-hotels/> in English or <http://www.eghamat24.com/Hotels/> in Farsi.

2. To do immediately after the return:

The returnee should:

- answer all the questions and share the respected documents in case he/she might be questioned by immigration police at the airport about the reason of the trip and the status of his/her citizenship. If the returnee has lost his/her local ID and other documents, he/she can refer to government offices (Police+10) which are available in all cities to register for a new one or refer to <http://epolice.ir/news.php> & <http://www.epishkhan.ir/> which are government's electronic services.
- register with relevant authorities: Returnees who do not have valid Iranian documents are required to register at respected offices such as Police+10.
- (re-)register for the health insurance system and the pension insurance system. There are two different kinds of health insurance coverage: either through employment or private, both under Iranian public insurance named TAMIN EJTEMAEI www.tamin.ir/
 - Insurance through employment: Government employees benefit from free access to the public health insurance through their employment. Private companies cover the accidental insurance for their own employees.
 - Private Insurance: Except for governmental employees, all other Iranian citizens have to insure themselves privately, if their employers do not insure them. To obtain the insurance coverage, it is necessary to provide: copy of the Iranian birth certificate, passport picture, complete medical check-up.
- apply for social welfare at the Tamin Ejtemaei, Iran's only public social welfare organization.
- contact services assisting with the search for jobs and housing.

- Real estate agencies are available almost at every street of even small villages in Iran. Many online property search engines are also available such as <http://iranfile.ir/>
- Job-finding companies can help to find suitable jobs based on the returnee's qualifications and experiences. He/she may also go through online ads such as <http://divar.ir> which is currently the most popular advertising website.
- apply for child care, schools or other educational institutions.

II. HEALTH CARE

1. Health care system

a. General information on the health care system

The Government tries to provide free medical treatment and medication for all Iranian nationals. There are two different types of health insurance coverage: either through employment or private, both under Iranian public insurance TAMIN EJTEMAEI www.tamin.ir/ Children's health insurances are normally covered by their parents' health insurance.

- Insurance through employment: Government employees benefit from free access to the public health insurance through their employment. Private companies cover the accidental insurance for their own employees.
- Private insurance: Except for governmental employees, all other Iranian citizens have to insure themselves privately, if their employers do not insure them. To obtain the insurance coverage, it is necessary to provide: a copy of the Iranian birth certificate, a passport-size picture, a complete medical check-up.
- Salamat insurance: This new private insurance is provided by the Ministry of Health and covers up to 90% of health expenses. Individuals can register for Salamat insurance through its website: <http://www.bimesalamat.ir/isc/ISC.html>

The following insurance companies do not offer private health insurance coverage, however they do offer accidental insurance for individuals. The related costs vary according to the type of coverage, age, etc.:

- *Dana:* Tehran, Gandi Ave, St. #15, No. 25, FAX: (0098 21) 88770980, TEL: (0098 21) 88770971-9, ESFAHAN: (0098 311) 2303891-9, SHIRAZ: (0098 711) 2301536-7, MASHHAD: (0098 511) 7267479, AHWAZ: (0098 611) 3363570-4, ORUMIEH: (0098 441) 3455192-3
- *Iran:* TEL: +9821 88954650-9, FAX: +9821 88954712/88954669/88954698, www.iraninsurance.com
- *Asia:* TEL: +9821 88800950-7, FAX: +9821 88898113, www.bimehasia.com
- *Alborz:* TEL: +9821 88903201-9, FAX: +9821 88908088

b. Access, especially for returnees

- Registration procedure: All Iranian citizens including returnees can register for health care at the Tamin Ejtemaei, <http://www.tamin.ir/>
- Required documents: A copy of the Iranian birth certificate, a passport-size photo, and a complete medical check-up are the essential required documents. Other additional documents might be requested later on.

c. Benefits

All benefits vary according to the provided plan which the client will be informed about upon registration.

d. Costs

All costs will be covered by the employer if the returnee begins to work in an Iranian organization or business. Otherwise the costs will have to be paid by the returnee personally.

2. Medical treatment and availability and costs of medication

a. Medical facilities and doctors

- More than 85 per cent of the population in rural and deprived regions has access to primary health care services. In the past three decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has adopted a policy aimed at better addressing the needs of its population, and substantial progress has been achieved both in the social and economic sectors.

- In rural areas, each village or group of villages contains a Health House, staffed by trained “Behvarz” or community health workers.
 - In urban areas, similarly distributed urban health posts and Health Centers have been established. The whole network is managed and administered through District Health Centers under the Ministry of Health and Medical Education. The universities of medical sciences of which one exists in each province, play an important role in medical education and in the provision of health services. The Chancellor of the university functions as the executive director of the provincial health services and is also in charge of all district health centers and hospitals.
 - Although during the recent sanctions against Iran there were some shortages in importing some special medicine groups, there is no serious lack of medicines, specialists, or equipment in the public health system of Iran. Pharmaceutical products are vastly imported under the supervision of the Ministry of Health. There are also private sectors with various ranges of expenses available especially in bigger cities, for those who want to benefit from private hospitals and health services.
- b. **Procedures of admission**
There are hospitals and clinics available in every districts of all cities in Iran. It is mandatory for all hospitals to accept emergency cases 24/7 and for less urgent situations it depends on the patient’s decision to refer to a doctor, a clinic, or a district hospital. The best would be to contact each center first to make an appointment.
- c. **Availability and costs of medication**
The Red Crescent has been determined as the focal point for import of some specific medicines and provides such medicines for special patients through designated pharmacies. In general, all medicaments are available in Iran. Medicaments are usually only distributed in small quantities in order to avoid resale on the black market.
- *Helal Ahmar Pharmacy*.
No.3, Cross section of Talaghani Ave. and Farahani Ave., Tehran, Iran,
Tel: (0098 21) 88803871-5
 - *Aban Pharmacy*
Cross section of Karim Khan Zand Ave. & Kheradmand, Tehran, Iran
Tel: (0098 21) 88849011-5

III. LABOR MARKET AND EMPLOYMENT

1. Labor market situation

a. Labor force

- According to the statistical center of Iran, the labor force (2014) was 24,701,177 (aged 10 and over) out of which 89% are employed. A review of the economic participation rate (activity rate) reveals that 38.2% of the population of working age (10 years and over) are economically active; i.e., they lie either in the employed or the unemployed group.
- The economic participation rate stands lower for women compared to men and urban areas in contrast to rural areas.
- A review of the unemployment rate shows that 11% of the active population is unemployed. The results show that the unemployment rate stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas, respectively. A review of underemployment indicator shows that 9.8% of the population was underemployed. The indicator stands higher for men compared to women and rural areas in contrast to urban areas.
- A review of employment in major economic sectors indicates that the services sector holds the biggest share of employment with 49.4% of the total, followed by manufacturing sector with 32.5% and agriculture sector with 18.0%. The majority of people are employed in service sector (49.4%). For more details please refer to below table:

<https://www.amar.org.ir/english/Statistics-by-Topic/Labor-force#2222533-releases>

Table 1. Labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; the year 1394

Labor force indicator		Total country	Male	Female	Urban areas	Rural areas
Economic activity of population aged 10 and over	Rate	38.2	63.2	13.3	37.5	40.0
	Number	24701177	20405386	4295791	17858718	6842458
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	11.0	9.3	19.4	12.2	8.1
	Number	2729092	1894122	834970	2171695	557397
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	Rate	26.1	22.3	42.8	29.3	20.0
	Number	765170	529673	235496	568612	196557
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	Rate	23.3	19.1	40.2	25.5	17.6
	Number	1646380	1083980	562399	1300106	346274
Employment share in agriculture sector	Share	18.0	17.1	22.8	5.2	50.0
	Number	3961297	3171458	789839	821101	3140196
Employment share in manufacturing sector	Share	32.5	34.2	23.8	34.9	26.6
	Number	7147011	6323306	823704	5473895	1673115
Employment share in services sector	Share	49.4	48.7	53.4	59.9	23.4
	Number	10860392	9013426	1846966	9388859	1471533
Share of time-related underemployment		9.8	10.8	4.5	8.2	13.7
The contribution of the employed aged 15 and over with usual working 49 hours and over		38.0	42.7	13.1	39.3	34.8

Note: Difference in the total is due to rounding figures.

b. Average income

- Construction workers: average salary is between IRR 8,121,640 and 10,000,000 per month
- Taxi drivers: average salary is between IRR 500,000 and 1,000,000 per day
- Municipality workers: average daily salary is between IRR 8,121,640 per month
- Computer Specialists: approximately IRR 30,000,000 per month

c. Unemployment rate

The rate of unemployment in Iran is currently approximately 11 %. The annual job creation by governmental organizations and private companies does not match with the number of people entering the job market. Therefore the competition is very high, especially considering that 70% of the Iranian population is younger than 35 years. The Ministry of Labor is pursuing a comprehensive plan to be approved by Majlis (parliament) according to which lots of jobs can be created for the jobless through specific cooperatives.

2. Ways/assistance to find employment

To access the labor market it is necessary to hold a birth certificate and to get a special permission from relevant labor union. This rule applies to all Iranian citizens. Holding a valid certificate or university degree increases the chance to find an employment in line with the specialty. The best tool for finding employment in Iran is newspaper ads and internet surfing, e.g. online ads such as <http://divar.ir>. There are many placement agencies in big cities which can help to find suitable jobs based on the returnee's qualifications and experiences.

3. Unemployment assistance

There is no unemployment assistance provided by the state unless you or your employer have paid a specific amount to an insurance company per month for this reason during the working period.

4. Further education possibilities and vocational trainings

There are many private vocational training centers in Iran. Due to the high rate of unemployment, the Government is trying to promote these centers. A list of schools and other institutions related to education/training is available in all municipalities. More information about vocational training is available on the following websites: <http://www.mohme.gov.ir>, <http://www.irantvto.com>

IV HOUSING

1. Housing situation

- a. Average rent, running costs/utilities (e.g. electricity, water, etc.)

In general, there is a sufficient number of houses and apartments available in Tehran and throughout the country. The price for purchasing or renting a residence depends on the area. Renting a property in Iran always requires an amount to be paid as deposit and monthly rent. The deposit and monthly rent also varies according to the location, property condition, and the size. The minimum deposit for one-bedroom apartment in Tehran downtown is around IRR 100,000,000 to IRR 300,000,000 plus monthly rent which varies from IRR 5,000,000 to 20,000,000. A minimum IRR 2,000,000 should be considered for utilities per month. Subsidized housing is only available for government employees. Returnees without a place to stay can stay in hotels until they find a solution.

b. **Demand and supply**

Cities are more expensive in case of accommodation and living costs comparing with countryside/rural areas although the variety and availability of different types of accommodation is more in urban areas.

c. **Housing facilities for returnees / social housing**

Subsidized housing is only available for government employees. Returnees without a place to stay can stay in hotels until they find a solution.

2. **Ways / assistance to find accommodation**

The best way to find properties is to refer to housing agencies (real estates) which are available at every street of even small villages in Iran. The returnee can tell them his/her budget and ask for a house based on his/her financial ability. Many online property search engines are also available such as <http://iranfile.ir/>

3. **Social grants for housing**

A housing loan is available through the Maskan Bank for buying houses, but there are many limitations to receiving a loan with respect to the country's current situation.

V. SOCIAL WELFARE

1. **Social welfare system**

a. **General information on the welfare system**

Free education and health services are available as social welfare services for all Iranian nationals. Other services might be offered by the individual's employer.

b. **Access, especially for returnees**

- Eligibility and requirements: All Iranian nationals including returnees are eligible for the TAMIN EJTEMAEI welfare system which is the only public welfare/health insurance in Iran, <http://www.tamin.ir/>
- Registration procedure for social security/insurance: The returnee would register through the above mentioned website which leads him/her to required documents according to their selected/suggested plan.
- Required documents: A copy of the Iranian birth certificate, a passport-size photo, and complete medical check-up are the basic required documents. Any additional document might be requested by the insurance office according to the chosen plan.

c. **Benefits**

Covered costs and benefits vary according to the plan. The client would be informed upon registration which benefits apply to him/her.

d. **Costs**

All costs will be covered by the employer if the returnee starts working (being employed) in an Iranian organization/business. Otherwise the costs must be paid personally by the returnee according the chosen plan.

2. **Pension system**

a. **General information on the pension system**

Although Iran does not offer a universal social protection, in 1996, the Iranian Center for Statistics estimated that more than 73% of the Iranian population was covered by social security. Membership of the social security system for all employees is compulsory. Social security ensures employee protection against unemployment, disease, old age and occupational accidents. In 2003, the government began to consolidate its welfare organizations to eliminate redundancy and inefficiency. In 2003 the minimum standard pension was 50% of the worker's earnings but no less than the minimum wage. Iran spent 22.5% of its 2003 national budget on social welfare programs of which more than 50% covered pension costs. Out of the 15,000 homeless in Iran in 2015, 5,000 were women.

b. Access, especially for returnees

- Eligibility/Requirements: Employees between the age of 18 and 65 years are covered by the social security system with financing shared between the employee (7% of salary), the employer (20–23%) and the state, which in turn supplements the employer contribution up to 3%. Social security applies to self-employed workers, who voluntarily contribute between 12% and 18% of their income depending on the protection sought. Civil servants, the regular military, law enforcement agencies, and IRGC have their own pension systems. For more information please refer to <http://www.pensiondevelopment.org/120/iran-islamic-republic-of.htm>
- Registration procedure for social security/insurance: The returnee who will start working will be registered by his/her employer. The rules can be found on <http://www.cspf.ir/Rule.aspx> for jobs under governmental organizations and <http://www.tamin.ir/> for other organizations. For those who would like to be covered under their own established business or based on their personal monthly payment (private) can use Tamin Ejtemaei or other private insurance companies.
- Required documents: Company registration and personal identification documents are required for a pension registration.

c. Costs

For employees, 7% of their monthly salary has to be paid by themselves and for self-business runners and private applicants the whole monthly contribution has to be paid by themselves.

d. Benefits

The benefits will be calculated based on the beneficiary's salary, especially the salary of the last two years as well as for private plans based on their monthly contributions/plans.

3. Vulnerable Persons

There are some centers providing services for people in need under the supervision of the BEHZISTI organization. Such services for vulnerable persons are free but since there are so many requests and due to some limitations, people sometimes prefer to pay for private centers. For more info about BEHZISTI please refer to: <http://www.behzisti.ir/>

VI. EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

1. Educational system

- Education in Iran is highly centralized and is divided into K-12 education and higher education. K-12 education is supervised by the Ministry of Education (<http://www.medu.ir/Portal/Home/>) and higher education is under supervision of Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (<http://www.irost.org/en/>).
- All institutions are gender segregated in Iran beginning at the pre-school level.
- Iran has 80 state universities including 28 medical universities, as well as a significant number of government research institutes. There are 25 private universities, including the Islamic Azad University, which has branches all over the country. Find a list of higher education institution and universities at: <http://www.4icu.org/ir/iranian-universities.htm>.
- Kindergartens and Pre-schools are available at almost every district of cities. The tuition fee of these centers varies according to the physical location, educational and fun space, quality level of services, etc. and starts from IRR 5,000,000 to IRR 70,000,000 per year. Children and parents' Shenanameh (ID), medical checkup and vaccination certificate is required for application. It is suggested to meet the center's managers to talk about facilities and fees.

Educational level	Age
Child care / nursery school (optional)	0-3
Kindergarten (optional)	3-5
Primary level (mandatory)	
Pre-school	6
Primary school (6 years)	7-13
Secondary level	
High School (6 years = 3 + 3)	13-19
Higher education	
University	from 19

2. Access and registration procedure, especially for returnees

Returning students need the following documents: National ID; Shenanameh (ID); Record of all previous education.

3. Costs, loans and stipends

a. General information on tuition fees

As a general rule, primary, secondary and higher education is free, although private schools and universities do exist and are permitted to charge tuition fees.

b. Access and requirements to stipends and/or loans for covering tuition

Most universities in Iran have their own financial aid offices to help students fund their studies. Feirdowsi University of Mashhad for example, has an Office of Student Welfare to provide loans and financial aids to students, i.e. tuition loan, lodging loan, marriage loan, loan for buying research facilities, etc. (<http://www.um.ac.ir/>) Also, Educational Administrative Affairs gives some discount to students according to their rank among their peers. You may access each university's EAA information and facilities through that university's website.

4. Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

The office of graduated students of the Ministry of Education is responsible for the accreditation and verification of foreign diplomas. The list of acceptable universities is also available at this office's website: <http://grad.saorg.ir/>

VII. CONCRETE SUPPORT FOR RETURNEES

1. Reintegration assistance programs

There are a number of projects for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR), e.g. by IOM Tehran, which offer the following assistances with the objective to support people's return to/from Iran and their reintegration into their home country in a sustainable manner:

Reception assistance, cash grant upon arrival, onward transportation assistance, hotel booking for those cases which need overnight stay prior to their next flight to final destinations, initial briefing for returnees at the airport and sharing of project flyers and contact lists, counselling sessions with clients, business set-up advice, vocational training assistance, educational support, job market counselling, counselling on medical and insurance opportunities, assistance in preparing business plan, assistance on cost-benefit analysis of proposed plans, monitoring and evaluating individual cases, etc.

For more information please contact: IOM Tehran (Tel: +98 (21) 22 04 88 86/87; email: iomtehran@iom.int; website: <http://iomtehran.ir>) or IOM Germany (+49 911 43 000; iom-germany@iom.int)

2. Financial and administrative support

IOM Iran provides the services listed below to returnees who return under Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration program:

- reception assistance
- cash grant upon arrival
- onward transportation assistance
- hotel booking for those cases which need overnight stay prior to their next flight to final destinations
- initial briefing for returnees at airport and sharing project flyer and contact list
- counselling session with clients
- business set-up advice
- vocational training assistance
- educational support
- job market counselling
- counselling on medical and insurance opportunities
- assist with preparing business plan
- assistance on cost-benefit analysis of proposed plans
- monitoring and evaluating individual cases

3. Support to start income generating activities

As mentioned above, IOM Tehran provides returnees with counselling sessions about income generating business establishments. Through providing information regarding the current market situation and demands, required documents, business plan development, etc. it will be made sure that the returnee is able to establish his/her own business.

VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION AND USEFUL LINKS

1. **International, Non-governmental, Humanitarian Organizations**
2. **Relevant local authorities, such as employment offices, health insurances, pension insurances, etc.**
3. **Services assisting with the search for jobs, housing, etc.**
4. **Medical Facilities, e.g. hospitals etc.**

Some high ranked hospitals are listed below but since there are hundreds of hospitals which cannot not be listed here, the best option is to search the nearest hospital to place of residence.

- 1 Rajaei Cardiovascular, Medical & Research Center
- 2 Babol University Hospitals
- 3 Royan Institute Research and Clinical Center for Infertility and Reproductive Health
- 4 Avicenna Research Institute
- 5 Erfan Hospital
- 6 Tehran Heart Center
- 7 Noor Eye Hospital
- 8 Fars Health Center
- 9 Milad Hospital
- 10 Digestive Disease Research Center Shariati Hospital In Tehran
- 11 Khatam Hospital
- 12 Alzahra University Hospital
- 13 Farabi Hospital
- 14 Health Center of Tehran University
- 15 Hasheminejad Kidney Center
- 16 Hematology Oncology and BMT Research Center
- 17 Jam Hospital
- 18 Day General Hospital
- 19 Shariati Hospital
- 20 Shiraz University of Medical Sciences Hospitals
- 21 Center for Research & Training in Skin Diseases & Leprosy
- 22 Nour & Ali Asghar University Hospital
- 23 Shiraz Health Center
- 24 Kerman Neuroscience Research Center
- 25 Azadi Psychiatric Hospital
- 26 Tehran Clinic Hospital
- 27 Department & Research Center of Otolaryngology and Head & Neck Surgery Hazrat Rasoul Akram Medical Complex

<p>United Nations Address: 8 Shahrzad Blvd, Darrous, P.O Box: 15875-1557 Tehran 1948773911 Islamic Republic of Iran E-mail: Tel: +98-21-2286 0691-4 Fax: +98-21-2286 9547 Website: https://un.org.ir/contact-us</p>	<p>Emergency contacts Police: 110 Emergency: 115 Information: 118 Fire: 125 Taxi: 133 Medicine info: 147 24 Hrs Pharmacies info: 199 Gas emergency center: 194 Flights info: 199</p>
<p>International Red Cross Address: No. 75, east Taban Alley, After Pole Mir Damad, Africa Blvd, Tehran Tel: 009821 88785503, Fax: 009821 88783370, Telex: 224259 RCIA-IR. E-Mail: intdep@irrcs.org</p>	<p>Iranian Social Security Organization (Tamin Ejtemaei) NO.345 Azadi Avenue, P.O.BOX 363, Tehran, Iran Email: iad@sso.ir Website: sso.ir Tel : +9821-66580569 Fax : +9821-66580670</p>
<p>Society to support children suffering from cancer (MAHAK) Medical BLDG, No.36, Chizar Sq. Neda Sq., Tel: (0098 21) 2201312, Fax: (0098 21) 22451414 E-Mail: info@mahak-charity.org</p>	<p>Charity foundation for special diseases No.8, 17 alley shahid akbary, valieasr Ave. P.O.Box 3333-15815, Tel: (0098 21) 8713137, Fax: (0098 21) 8710796, E-Mail: info@cffsd.org, URL: www.cffsd.org</p>