An Overview of the COVID-19 situation: Lesson Learnt from Iran

Feb 28, 2022

Kamiar Alaei, MD, DrPH
Structure of Health System in Iran

Ministry of Health and Medical Education

University of Medical Sciences

Health Network

Health Center

City Hospital

Rural Health Center

Urban Health Center

Health Post

Health Post

Satellite Village

Satellite Village

Satellite Village
# Health Facilities

Source: Ministry of Health, Iran; Dr. Malekzadeh; July
*S. Alireza MARANDI; The Health Landscape of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Medical Journal of Islamic World Academy of Sciences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Health Facilities</th>
<th>Pharmacy Public and private</th>
<th>Laboratories Public and private</th>
<th>Hospital beds per 1000 people</th>
<th>Total hospital beds</th>
<th>Iranian Physicians</th>
<th>Physicians per 1000 people</th>
<th>Medical School *</th>
<th>Teaching hospital beds*</th>
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* (2.8 in Turkey)

(16% private/charity)

(1.8 in Turkey)
Vaccine coverage from 7% - 33% in 1980 to over 97% -100% in 2017 nationwide (WHO), by using Behvarz in the country, especially in the rural area. From 2001, Iran has obtained the certificate of *polio eradication* and sustained this success.

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**Health indicators Iran**

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<tr>
<td>Newborn Mortality/1000</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mortality &lt; 5 Year/1000</td>
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<td>Maternal Mortality/100,000 BIRTH</td>
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<td>Life Expectancy Women</td>
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<td>Life Expectancy Men</td>
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Health Development and Outcomes among Provinces in Iran
R. Bahrami and M. Rezaei; Research and Science Journal of Kermanshah Medical University; year 19; 2015
COVID – 19

When,

How and

Why

the virus entered/identified?
The initial status of COVID-19
Controversy among stakeholders on when and How to respond
How and why the initial policies changes over time and the extend to which they were politically motivated

- Initial reaction of policy makers and experts
- Ministry of Health, health experts, Parliament members, Military, Religious leader
- Quarantine or physical distance?
- Quality of data reporting?
- Vaccination?
- Budget allocation?
The current situation of the COVID-19

• Total reported death 137K

• Total reported cases 7 M
Total Coronavirus Cases in Iran

Total Cases (Linear Scale)

Feb 27, 2022
Cases: 7,040,467
COVID-19 infections are decreasing in Iran, with 14,002 new infections reported on average each day. That's 35% of the peak — the highest daily average reported on August 16.

There have been 7,040,467 infections and 136,631 coronavirus-related deaths reported in the country since the pandemic began.

Daily reported trends

New infections  Deaths
The current situation of the COVID-19 and Vaccination

- 1\textsuperscript{st} dose: 75%
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} dose: 66%
- 3\textsuperscript{rd} dose: 27%

During the last week reported, Iran averaged about 273,065 doses administered each day. At that rate, it will take a further 61 days to administer enough doses for another 10\% of the population.
Case Studies

Lesson Learnt from other countries
Conclusion:

- Lack of trust
- Lack of transparency
- Unequal access
- Unsustainable policy and management
- Lack of involvement of experts in decision making process
- Less attention to the scientific priorities
- Prioritized politics and ideology