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European Iranian Medical Society

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# Iran Coronavirus Relief Fund 30by13 Report

May 2020

## Background

The highly pathogenic SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, that has rapidly spread around the world since emerging in the end of the year 2019, leads to acute and severe respiratory illness in a large number of patients. Iran reported its first confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 infections on 19th of February 2020 in the city of Qom. Unfortunately, soon after Iran became one of the major epicentres of the coronavirus outbreak.

During a pandemic, medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) become precious commodities as each country scrambles to contain the outbreak. In Iran, there are additional challenges. Healthcare professionals in Iran do not only have to face outbreaks, but they also have to deal with the consequences of current inhumane sanctions and the world's indifference in this regard, as well as domestic mismanagement. And despite the challenges, they continuously strive against all odds to protect the health of their patients.

On 20 March 2020, a number of professional Iranian societies from across Europe joined forces to help the European Iranian Medical Society (EIMS) set up the Iran Coronavirus Relief Fund 30by13 campaign (the campaign) for the support of healthcare professionals in Iran and their patients. EIMS is a community of Iranian doctors in Europe, primarily based in Germany, France and the UK. The society is non-political and carries out fundraising projects on a nonprofit basis.

## Purpose and target

The purpose of the campaign is to enable generous and kind individuals across the world to directly support the initiative of EIMS to combat the COVID-19 outbreak in Iran.

The campaign had an initial target of £30,000 fundraising by Seezdah Be-Dar (2 April 2020), and an overall target of £50,000 by 17 April 2020.

The campaign has consisted of 3 phases, namely fundraising, procurement, and delivery.

## Fundraising phase

EIMS received donations from across the world, from the United States to Australia. The campaign was widespread on social media and was supported by numerous societies including the Iranian Medical Society UK, Anjoman UK, the Iranian Women's Association and university societies such as the Imperial College Iranian Society and the LSE Persian Society.

Donations were collected by EIMS with the help of the Iranian Medical Society UK (Registered UK Charity No. 1151651) ("IMSUK"), which kindly made available its charity bank accounts in the UK for the campaign. Founded in 1960, IMSUK is an independent organisation and the longest continuously running Iranian professional society in Europe.

The donations made through the EIMS Iran Coronavirus Relief 30by13 website were collected in the accounts of IMSUK, and 100% of the donations went to the Iran Coronavirus Relief Fund 30by13 (minus the card processing fees). We are grateful for IMSUK for acting as our trustee during this campaign.

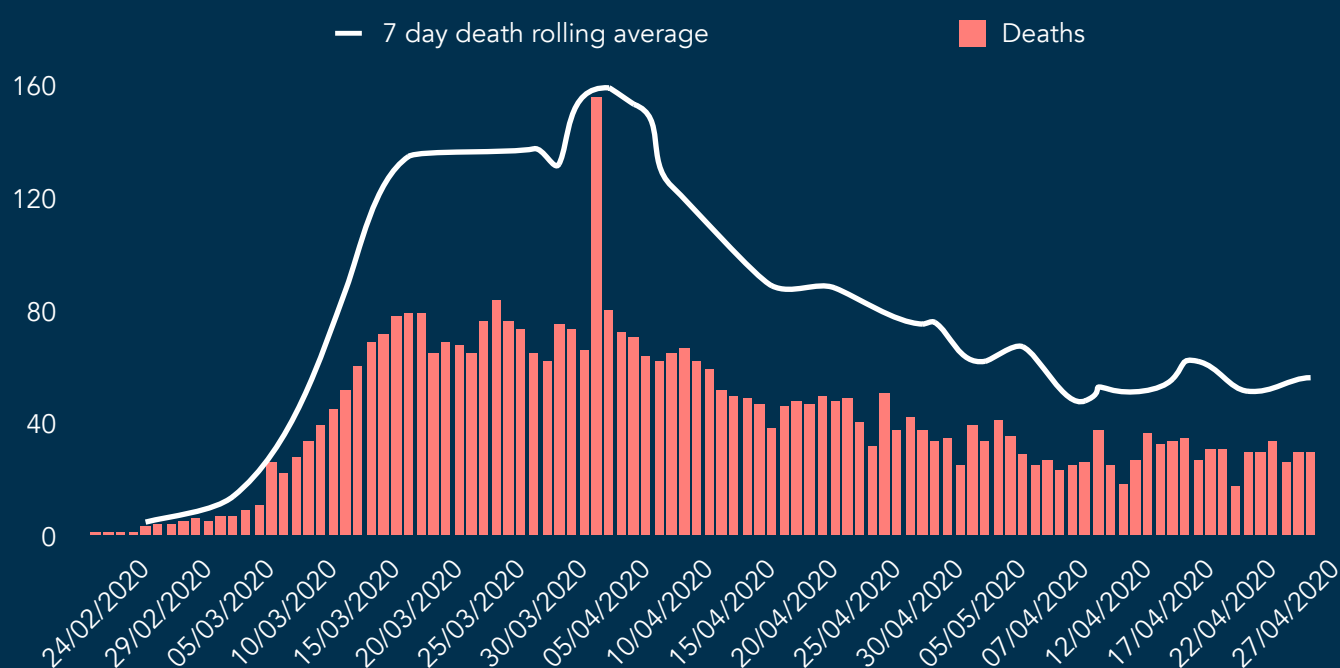
On 2 April 2020, we successfully reached our target of £30,000, having raised a total of £33,685. We then entered the second stage of our fundraising campaign with a target of £50,000. As planned, we closed our fund on 17 April 2020 and a total of £49,510 had been raised, of which IMSUK had kindly contributed £5,025.

£39,510 were used for the purpose of the campaign. One of the donors generously donated £10,000 on the condition of a further, tailored project for SARS-CoV-2 patients in Iran, and we therefore designated their funds to a separate pandemic hospital project, which is beyond the scope of the campaign and this report.

## Procurement phase

We strongly believe that any medical aid sent to Iran must be based on scientific principle and need of the country. We therefore monitored and assessed the situation in the country continuously and, given the size of the Iran Coronavirus Relief Fund 30by13, decided to purchase and provide Auto Continuous Positive Airway Pressure ventilator machines.

By the time our fundraising ended, despite once being a major source of concern, the issue of PPE in Iran had improved. This was due to the domestic supply chain that was set up in Iran and the international aid that had been sent to the country by foreign governments and international non-profit organisations. In addition, Iran also started producing and exporting its own swab tests which greatly improved the testing capacity in the country. As shown in graph one, Iran was no longer in an acceleration phase of the disease following the end of our fundraising on 17 April 2020. It rather seems that the country had reached its peak early April, based on the 7-day rolling average of daily deaths (which accounts for discrepancies in daily data). Restrictions on daily life were then being lifted, which accounts for a smaller second wave. Although the data is open to scrutiny, as it is worldwide, it is in line with the trends of other countries that had their SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks at the same time as Iran.



Graph 1: 7 day rolling average of daily deaths in Iran due to COVID-19.

Source of data: WHO

Graph © EIMS

In light of the situation in Iran, our team decided to purchase and provide ventilation machines. As the recovery numbers increased, a large portion of patients were weaned off their maximum therapy levels including invasive ventilation. It was therefore clear that provision of non-invasive ventilation machines was likely the best aid.

The above analysis and decisions were not only been made through data, but also discussions we had with healthcare professionals in Iran, who asked us to send them non-invasive ventilators. Previously, invasive ventilators were high in demand. Over the past weeks, however, the demand for such type of ventilators dramatically reduced.

The aid we send has to reflect where in the disease curve Iran is in order to achieve an efficient outcome. We also wish to maximise patient benefit for years to come with the funds we have raised. Therefore, EIMS has decided to use the collected funds to procure high-quality Auto Continuous Positive Airway Pressure non-invasive ventilators.

We are pleased to announce that we were able to purchase in the UK AirSense™ 10 Series non-invasive ventilators by ResMed, a leading medical equipment company based in California. This type of ventilator is one of the world's most widely used series of Auto Continuous Positive Airway Pressure machines. It is sought after in Iran but currently rare due to the US sanctions. We are now in delivery phase and distributing a total of 78 non-invasive ventilators as detailed in the following table. Needless to say, these devices will outlast the outbreak and serve other patients in the future.

At this point, we would like to thank the European Iranian Council (EUIRANC) for supporting the campaign throughout the procurement and delivery phases. Their legal support enabled us to procure and ship the aid despite the US sanctions and meet compliance requirements in these times of fast changing laws in relation to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

## Table 1: Donation distribution

Province	City	Name of hospital	Number of devices received
Khuzestan			
	Ahwaz		
		Razi Hospital	2
		Imam Khomeini Hospital	2
		Golestan Hospital	2
		Shafa Hospital	1
		Taleghani Hospital	1
	Dezful		
		Dr. Ganjavian Hospital	1
	Shushtar		
		Khatam Al-Anbia Hospital	2
		Al-Hadi Hospital	2
	Abadan		
		Taleghani Hospital	2
		Shahid Beheshti Hospital	2
	Ramhormoz		
		Madar Hospital	2
		Imam Khomeini Hospital	2
	Khorramshahr		
		Valiasr Hospital	2
	Shadegan		
		Maarefizadeh Hospital	2

Table 1: *Continued*

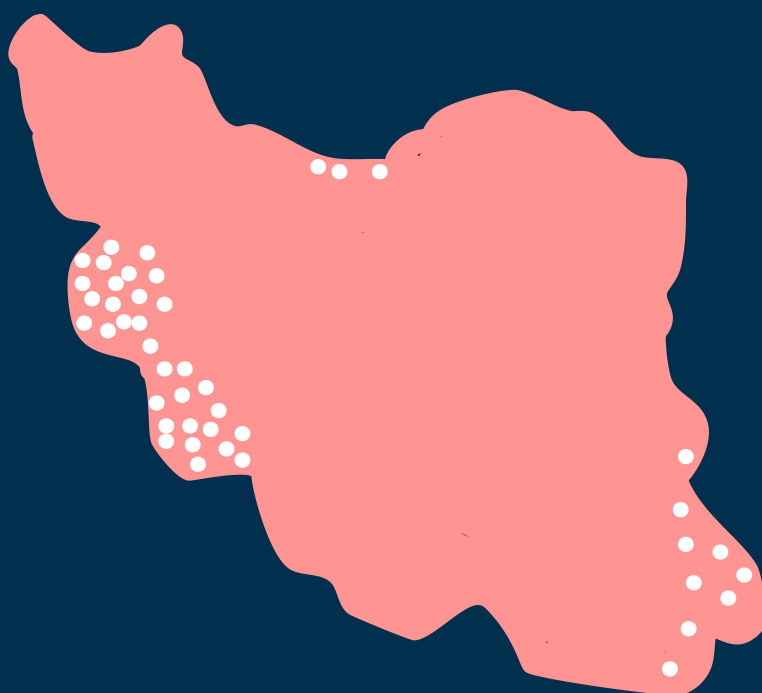
Province	City	Name of hospital	Number of devices received
	Masjed Suleiman		
		22nd of Bahman Hospital	2
Sistan and Baluchestan			
	Iranshahr		
		Iran Hospital	2
	Chabahar		
		Imam Ali Hospital	2
	Nikshahr		
		Mohammad Rasoolullah Hospital	2
	Rask		
		Velayat Hospital	2
	Saravan		
		Razi Hospital	2
	Khash		
		Imam Khomeini Hospital	2
	Mirjavah		
		Dar Al-Shafa Hospital	2
	Zabol		
		Amir Al-Momenin Hospital	2
	Hirmand		
		Shohada Hospital	2
	Zahak		
		Seyed Al-Shohada Hospital	2

Table 1: *Continued*

Province	City	Name of hospital	Number of devices received
Kermanshah			
	Kermanshah		
		Farabi Hospital	2
		Golestan Hospital	2
		Nasim Hospital	2
		Imam Khomeini Hospital	2
		Motazed Hospital	2
		Imam Ali Hospital	2
		Taleghani Hospital	2
	Gilan Gharb		
		Al-Zahra Hospital	1
	Sarpol-e Zahab		
		Shohada Hospital	1
	Islamabad		
		Imam Khomeini Hospital	1
	Songhor		
		Songhor Hospital	1
	Kangavar		
		Shahid Chamran Hospital	1
	Sahne		
		Dr. Moaven Hospital	1
	Hersin		
		Shohada Hospital	1

Table 1: Continued

Province	City	Name of hospital	Number of devices received
	Paveh		
		Quds Hospital	1
	Javanroud		
		Hazrat Rasool Hospital	1
	Salas Babajani		
		Salas Babajani Hospital	1
Ilam			
	Ilam		
		Mostafa Khomeini Hospital	2
Mazandaran			
	Sari		
		Imam Hospital	2
	Ghaemshahr		
		Valiasr Hospital	2
		Razi Hospital	1



Map 1: Planned distribution of donations across Iran.  
Each white dot represents one hospital. Locations are not exact.

## Gallery





## Delivery phase and conclusion

In total, 44 hospitals in 32 cities of Iran are due to receive the devices. As we are now in delivery phase, we will be providing you with a final update in the near future once the delivery of all 78 ventilators has taken place.

On behalf of EIMS we would like to take this opportunity to thank every one of the donors who took the time to donate to our fund. We hope you and your family are keeping safe and well during these difficult times. Please do follow our website ([euroims.com](http://euroims.com)) and our Instagram account (@[euroims](https://www.instagram.com/euroims)) for more updates as the devices arrive at the hospitals in Iran. We have more exciting projects coming up to benefit patients in Iran and look forward to sharing more success stories with our supporters in due course.

31 May 2020

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*on behalf of the European Iranian Medical Society*