



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q 1: What is HUREC?**

A: The Humanitarian Relief Coalition (HUREC) is a joint effort of major Iranian American charitable nonprofits and professional organizations. The coalition was initiated by Iranian American Medical Association (IAMA), Moms Against Poverty (MAP), Keep Children in School (KCIS), Institute for International Health and Education (IIHE), and Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans (PAAIA), with the mission to provide urgent humanitarian medical and pharmaceuticals supplies to hospitals and medical teams in response to the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Due to the scope of the disaster, the coalition's vision is to aggregate resources and centralize efforts in a collective, inclusive, and transparent manner to maximize our capacity for effective emergency and humanitarian response. With this vision in mind, the initiating organizations have asked like-minded organizations to join and support these efforts. We are fortunate to observe a very positive response from our community as the number of organizations joining grows every day.

### **Q 2: What are your plans for purchasing the medical devices related to COVID-19 to Iran or sending money to Iran?**

A: The Coalition will purchase medical equipment that are urgently needed and are in short supply in Iran. We purchase them from vendors and companies abroad and ship them to Iran. If some of the items are produced in Iran or found through foreign companies' representatives in Iran, for faster service, we might purchase those items inside Iran and distribute them to hospitals in need.

### **Q 3: How do you ensure aid goes directly to the medical staff and patients?**

A: All the shipments and items are managed by international organizations or our members' sister NGOs' in Iran based on our need assessment recommendation using reports from sources such as our expert medical colleagues in Iran. We reserve the right to stop shipments in case we notice any irregularities and interference in our project.

Some of the Members of the HUREC coalition, such as MAP, KCIS, Razi Health Foundation, and Child Foundation, have already independently delivered medical supplies and other protective gear to more than fifty hospitals around the country.

As mentioned above, the shipments of medical equipment to Iran are incremental and not all in one shipment, hence, we will promptly cease shipment if we observe or are notified for any documented irregularities or interference in our project.

**Q 4: Is there a risk in helping Iran? Will I be fined because of US sanctions? How will you get these supplies to Iran?**

A: The United States maintains broad exemptions that allow for export of humanitarian goods, including medicine and medical devices, to Iran from the United States, or by U.S. persons or U.S.-owned or -controlled foreign entities, subject to certain conditions.

The coalition has designated six organizations to engage in the supply chain activities. These four organizations already have the necessary OFAC licenses or use OFAC general license designated for Iran. Also, they have previously provided humanitarian relief in Iran and are familiar with OFAC requirements. These organizations are IAMA\*, MAP\*\*, KCIS, and Relief International.

Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are authorized under General License E to export or re-export services to Iran in support of certain not-for-profit activities designed to directly benefit the Iranian people, including the provision of donated health-related services and distribution of donated articles such as medicine intended to be used to relieve human suffering, in Iran.

If interested in further reading relevant to providing humanitarian assistance to Iran related to the COVID-19 outbreak, please reference sections 560.210(b), 560.530, 560.532, and 560.533 and General License E of the ITSR and General License 8 issued pursuant to the GTSR and the ITSR, the guidance provided in FAQs 549, 637, 821, 822, 823, and 826?, and the guidance provided in “Guidance on the Sale of Food, Agricultural Commodities, Medicine, and Medical Devices by Non-U.S. Persons to Iran” and “Clarifying Guidance on Humanitarian Assistance and Related Exports to the Iranian People.”

Other types of humanitarian activities or exports by U.S. persons may be authorized pursuant to a specific license from OFAC. Please note any transfers of funds in support of activities authorized by General License E must be made by the NGOs themselves, and not directly by U.S. individuals, in accordance with the conditions of General License E. [03-06-2020]

\* Iranian American Medical Association (IAMA) has an OFAC license (License No. IA-2017-339680-1) from the U.S. Treasury for humanitarian purposes and can collect tax-exempt donations in America to support our ongoing relief efforts. To request a copy of IAMA’s OFAC license, please email: [m.shokouhamiri@iama.org](mailto:m.shokouhamiri@iama.org)

\*\* Moms Against Poverty has an OFAC license (License No. IA-2013-305873-4) from the U.S. Treasury for humanitarian purposes and can collect tax-exempt donations in

America to support our ongoing relief efforts. To request a copy of Moms Against Poverty's OFAC license, please email: [bobak@momsagainstpoverity.org](mailto:bobak@momsagainstpoverity.org)

#### **Q 5: How is HUREC governed?**

A: HUREC is a coalition of charitable nonprofits, 501(c)(3), that have come together in this dire time for one purpose, to provide humanitarian relief to the people of Iran in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. HUREC is not an organization. HUREC is a joint effort by organizations initiated and administered by the IAMA, MAP, KCIS, PAAIA and IIHE

These initiating organizations have discussed and agreed to an action-based governing platform. This platform includes executive committees that implement the general mission of the coalition and a secretariat to act as the coordinating body.

The coalition operates with the following committees: 1) Needs and Priorities, 2) Procurement and Fundraising, 3) Supply Chain, Delivery, and Reporting, 4) Communications, Outreach, Advocacy, and Legal, and 5) Treasury.

The Needs and Priorities committee established an expert based evaluation process that conducts need assessments of medical and pharmaceutical supplies through a wide network of medical professionals throughout Iran. The committee provides the coalition with a priority recommendation list of medical supplies to be procured and provinces and hospitals to which the supplies should be distributed.

At that point, the Procurement and Fundraising committee works to secure these recommended supplies. After procurement, the Supply Chain committee performs delivery to the recommended hospitals and medical facilities. This committee is also entrusted to conduct quality check of the products and also to oversee implementation, evaluation, and reporting of the process.

#### **Q 6: Is HUREC affiliated with the government of Iran?**

A: No. HUREC is not affiliated with any government, including the Islamic Republic of Iran. HUREC is an independent coalition of nonprofit organizations incorporated in the United States. To provide humanitarian relief to the people of Iran, IAMA, MAP, KCIS, have obtained the necessary permits from the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) or use OFAC's general license, and are fully compliant with the US laws and regulations.

The coalition could also work with a network of international relief organizations with expansive OFAC licenses and operation capacity in Iran to ensure delivery of humanitarian goods to the recommended hospitals and medical facilities in Iran. As mentioned above, these determinations are performed by the Needs and Priorities committee.

**Q 7: How does the Coalition collect donations? Is my donation tax-exempt?**

A: The coalition has entrusted Moms Against Poverty (MAP) to collect online donations and the Iranian American Medical Association (IAMA) to collect offline donations as fiscal sponsors of the coalition. According to the requirements of federal law, no goods or services by our organization or coalition are being provided in exchange for donations.

All contributions made to Moms Against Poverty are tax-exempt to the extent allowed by law. Moms Against Poverty is a not-for-profit organization, incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in California. The organization's Federal tax-exempt number is 20-8865521.

All contributions made to Iranian American Medical Association are tax-exempt to the extent allowed by law. Iranian American Medical Association is a not-for-profit organization, incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in New Jersey. The organization's federal tax-exempt number is 52-1839683.

Donations can also be made to any of the coalition members of their choice towards HUREC fundraising campaign.

**Q 8: Does the coalition take a portion of the donations for their administrative expenses/overhead?**

A: No. The Coalition has agreed to work on completely voluntary basis with zero overhead. That said, for online transactions, PayPal and credit card companies automatically charge (2.2% + 30¢/transaction with PayPal and 3.75% + 37¢/transaction with most credit cards. The remaining amount of each donation goes toward purchasing medical items. No other service fees or overhead deductions are charged.

**Q 9: How can I support HUREC?**

A: You can support HUREC by offering financial support through your tax-deductible donation or help us spread the word about our efforts. The coalition consists of 501(c)(3) charitable organizations and all donations in the United States are fully tax-deductible.

**Q 10: Why did my Favorite Nonprofit Join the Coalition and not Continue their previous COVID-19 Services on their own?**

A: Your favorite nonprofit has joined efforts with other active nonprofits to maximize capacity and service. It is our assessment that the Iranian people will be dealing with the effect of COVID-19 pandemic for a while. Also, dealing with the size of the devastating effect of this pandemic on Iran is beyond any one organization's capacity. As a result, we have decided to join forces with other nonprofits to ensure maximum capacity and avoidance of repeating efforts.

**Q 11: What happens to our donations if the Coalition (HUREC) cannot complete its mission and like the Doctors without Borders faces unexpected rejection from the IRI at the end?**

A: We will immediately stop the mission and will follow the US- Rules and Regulations to make the best decision on how to proceed with the remaining of the funds and/or the medical equipment purchased.

**Q 12: Will the Coalition update the donors and public periodically?**

Yes, we will share updates with documents, pictures and videos particularly to make sure that the items have reached the hospitals, medical staffs, and the COVID-19 patients

**Q 13: Are there any other organizations not listed on this site that this coalition is tied to?**

A: No. The Coalition appreciates all its members and supporters and we have posted the logo of each group, who has kindly joined this Humanitarian Relief Coalition (HUREC). The list and logos of the groups will be updated they join.

**Q 14: Who are currently members of this Coalition?**

A: For the complete list of all members, please see visit our website

We work together as we all believe in what Saadi-e Shirazi versed 700 years ago:

بنی آدم اعضای یک پیکرند  
که در آفرینش ز یک گوهرند  
چو عضوی به درد آورد روزگار  
دگر عضوها را نماند قرار  
تو کز محنت دیگران بی غمی  
نشاید که نامت نهند آدمی

“Human beings are members of a whole,  
In creation of one essence and soul.  
If one member is afflicted with pain,  
Other members uneasy will remain.  
If you have no sympathy for human pain,  
The name of human you cannot retain.”

(Translation to English by M. Aryanpour).