



A health care worker helps a man with a disability complete his physiotherapy exercises. Photo: Mr Akbar Badrkhani.

29 November – To support the Iranian national health system in promoting the well-being of the elderly and people living with disabilities, WHO is implementing a project in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and the State Welfare Organization of Iran to improve access to inclusive health care in nursing homes and enhance the quality of life and dignity of these vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project, co-funded by [European Union humanitarian aid](#), started in June 2021 and will last 21 months. It is supporting catalytic and innovative activities to increase the COVID-19 response capacity of long-term care facilities, procure assistive technologies (e.g. wheelchairs and walkers) for the most vulnerable, train caregivers in providing tailor-made care and services to the elderly and persons living with disabilities, and establish an online platform and network for research and training.

The project was discussed during a recent meeting in Tehran on 10 November, attended by a visiting team from the European Union humanitarian aid mission in Islamabad, Pakistan, comprising the Head of Office, Taheeni Thammannagoda, and Programme Assistant, Naeem Gul, and the WHO Representative and Head of Mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr Syed Jaffar Hussain, the project team from WHO's Healthier Populations Programme and the directors of the family, population and school health and mental health departments at the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and representatives from the rehabilitation office of the State Welfare Organization of Iran.

