



The refugee-exclusive vaccination centre in Sharafabad, Kerman Province, offers Sinopharm doses to Afghan refugees under 18 in protection against COVID-19

27 October 2021, Kerman, Islamic Republic of Iran – The World Health Organization plans to boost support to the Islamic Republic of Iran in delivering health care services to the Afghan community, as well as the host population in the country, orchestrated in collaboration with UNHCR and other local partners and in light of the recent developments in neighbouring Afghanistan which has spurred a new influx of refugees into the country.

The decision was announced by WHO Representative to the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr Syed Jaffar Hussain who visited the southern Kerman province in close proximity to the Iran-Afghanistan border on Wednesday, 27 October, at the head of a WHO delegation of technical expert and met with local and provincial authorities of Kerman University of Medical Sciences.

The visit provided a fresh opportunity to check on health care facilities providing services to refugees in Kerman province, including a vaccination centre and a delivery and maternal services facility dedicated to the foreign population in the area.

The refugee-exclusive vaccination centre in Sharafabad, a densely Afghan-populated district in Kerman, provides COVID-19 immunization services to 400–500 Afghan nationals on a daily basis regardless of their legal status. The visitors get a choice between the Chinese vaccine Sinopharm, and the Indian jab COVAXIN, donated by the Government of India. Refugees under 18-years of age are also inoculated using Sinopharm at this centre. Visitors also get vaccine-related health information in the form of brochures before and after vaccination.

“Post-injection adverse effects following immunization (AEFI) is also observed at this centre to promptly respond to potential adverse effects in those being inoculated,” said Dr Hussain during the visit. “It is a great health resource for Afghan refugees whether they are registered or not registered [for legal residence].”



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