

# Iran sees promising increase in organ donation index

Health Ministry official announces significant increase in organ donation rates.

## Social Desk

According to the Fars news agency, Amir-Hessam Alirezaei, the director of the Ministry of Health's Transplant Management and Disease Treatment Center, has reported a substantial improvement in the country's organ donation index. The index has risen from 7.8 per one million people in 2020-2021 to 12.2 in 2022-2023.

Alirezaei revealed that the number of organ donations in the country increased from 645 in 2020-2021 to 928 in 2021-2022, and further rose to 1,016 in 2022-2023. He also highlighted the current state of transplant facilities in the country, which includes 30 kidney transplant departments, 11 liver transplant departments, 3 lung transplant departments, 4 pancreas transplant departments, 18 bone marrow transplant departments, 22 procurement centers, and 35 transplant identification centers.

Since the inception of the transplant program, kidney transplants have been the most common, with 40,095 cases recorded. Alirezaei noted that the country experiences 5,000 to 8,000 brain deaths annually, with 2,500 to 4,000 of these cases being suitable for transplantation.

With 18,000 patients in need of organ transplants, 1,016 organ donations were performed in 2022-2023. Alirezaei emphasized the three pillars of organ donation as science, structure, and culture, attributing 20 percent to science, 30 percent to structure, and 50 percent to culture.

In addition to the transplant program, Alirezaei discussed the establishment of infertility treatment centers across the country. All provinces now have level three infertility centers, totaling 109 centers, including 44 government-run, 10 non-governmental and affiliated organizations, and 55 private centers. Furthermore,



40 level two infertility treatment centers operate within 55 universities of medical sciences.

These services encompass level one consultations, ex-

aminations, and basic paraclinical procedures; level two infertile couple evaluations, diagnosis of infertility causes, and intrauterine insemination (IUI); and

level three subspecialized infertility services, such as in vitro fertilization (IVF), intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), and advanced endometriosis surgeries.

● FARS

## DoE to collaborate exclusively with standardized zoos



## Social Desk

The Director General of the Wildlife Protection and Management Office of the Department of the Environment (DoE), Gholamreza Ebdali, has announced that the organization will only cooperate with zoos that meet specific standards. Ebdali emphasized that zoos should not solely focus on economic and financial aspects, but also prioritize education, species protection, and animal rights. According to ISNA, Hassan Akbari, the Deputy Director of Natural Environment and Biodiversity of the DoE, previously addressed the issue of wildlife loss in the country's zoos. Akbari announced a rating plan for zoos,

which has significantly limited the issuance of permits. Zoos that meet the required standards and demonstrate suitable activity are supported, while those failing to meet the standards are either removed or encouraged to improve.

Ebdali provided further details on the zoo ranking system. He explained that until recently, there was no criterion for ranking zoos to determine the level of cooperation. However, in the second half of the previous year, a rating plan was launched, and evaluation indicators were compiled. The plan currently includes about 16 axes with 70 indicators.

The organization's evaluators assess zoos, bird gardens, and conservation

centers based on these set standards and assign them a score. The zoos are then ranked based on these reviews and scores. Ebdali stated that following these ratings, the organization can only cooperate with zoos that meet the specified standards and can protect a wide variety of species.

Ebdali emphasized that the organization's expectations from zoos are clearly defined in this plan. He said, "In this plan, issues such as education, animal rights, and protection have been emphasized a lot. Zoos should assist in the field of wildlife species protection and survival of many species, in addition to cooperating with the Environmental Protection Agency."

The plan also addresses issues such as the quality of animal food, species welfare management, security of the storage place, species health, and disease management. Each of these areas has its own evaluation axes and indicators.

In conclusion, Ebdali stressed that the guidelines are completely up-to-date and stated, "We expect zoos not to operate only with economic and financial goals. Zoos can have much more important goals. Issues such as education, respecting animal rights, species protection, and research should be emphasized and given more importance as scientific centers where university projects and animal behavior studies are conducted."

## PIC OF THE DAY

Juicy and delicious stone fruits are the heart of Goldasht City, located in the central part of Najaf Abad, Isfahan Province. The city is known as the fruit production hub of the west of the province. As summer arrives, the harvesting season begins and continues till early autumn! Last year, Goldasht produced a whopping 10,000 tons of stone fruits with 820 hectares of orchards, out of which 510 hectares are fertile. Who's ready to take a bite?



● AZADEH AZIZIAN/IRIB NEWS