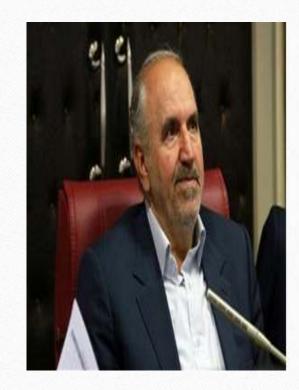
Social Development and Health Promotion Research Center Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences (KUMS)

Healthy
Neighborhood of
Chaman Zein
Al-Abedin



Dr. Ali Almasi Professor of Environmental Engineering Head of the centre

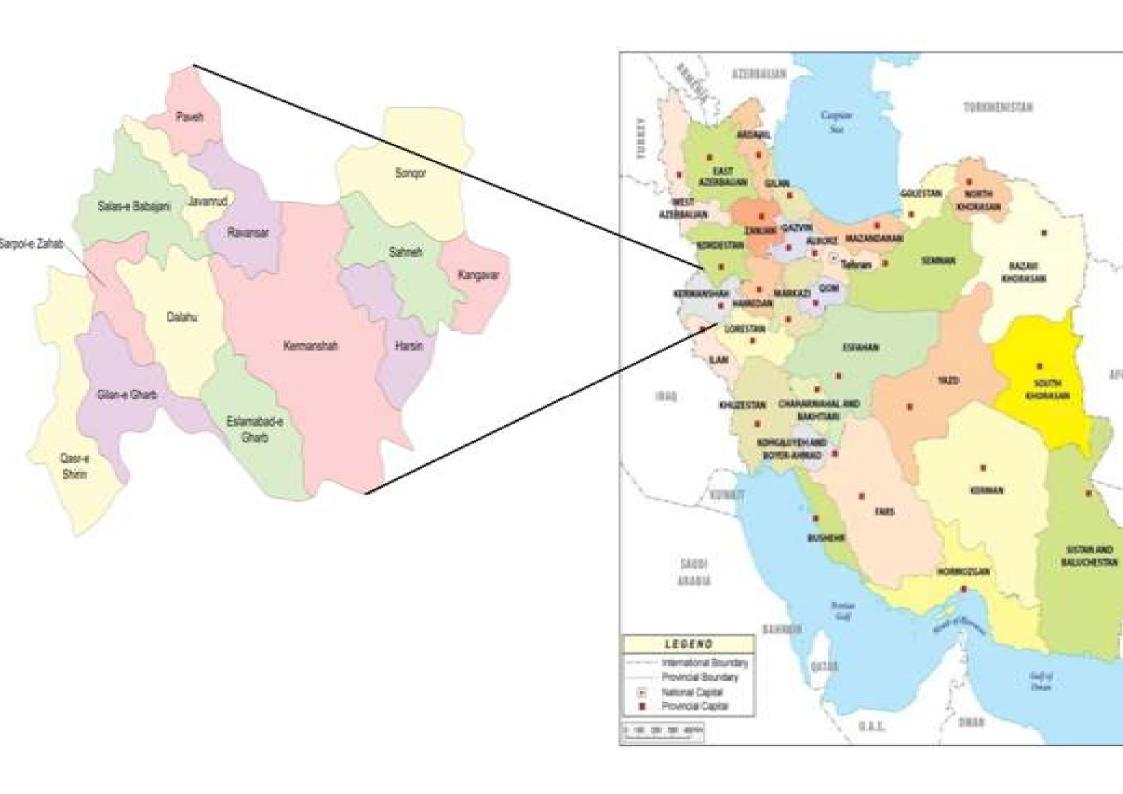


# Social Development and Health Promotion Research Center

- Social Development and Health Promotion Research Center is one of the recognized centers of the country in the field of social determinants of health (SDH) and one of the oldest research centers of Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences (KUMS).
- This center was established in 2001 and was able to receive substantive agreement from the ministry of health in 2006. In addition, the center managed to achieve a positive and upward trend in the annual evaluations of the ministry of health by publishing research articles in valid scientific journals.
- The center has 10 faculty members, three researchers, and 60 faculty members and fellow volunteers.

# Social Development and Health Promotion Research Center

- This center has carried out studies on social, cultural, and geographical areas related to SDH and health promotion programs by relying on its researchers and faculty members.
- Other activities of this center include organizing local people and attracting their cooperation in health-related activities, tracking and resolving local problems, local empowerment through community participation.

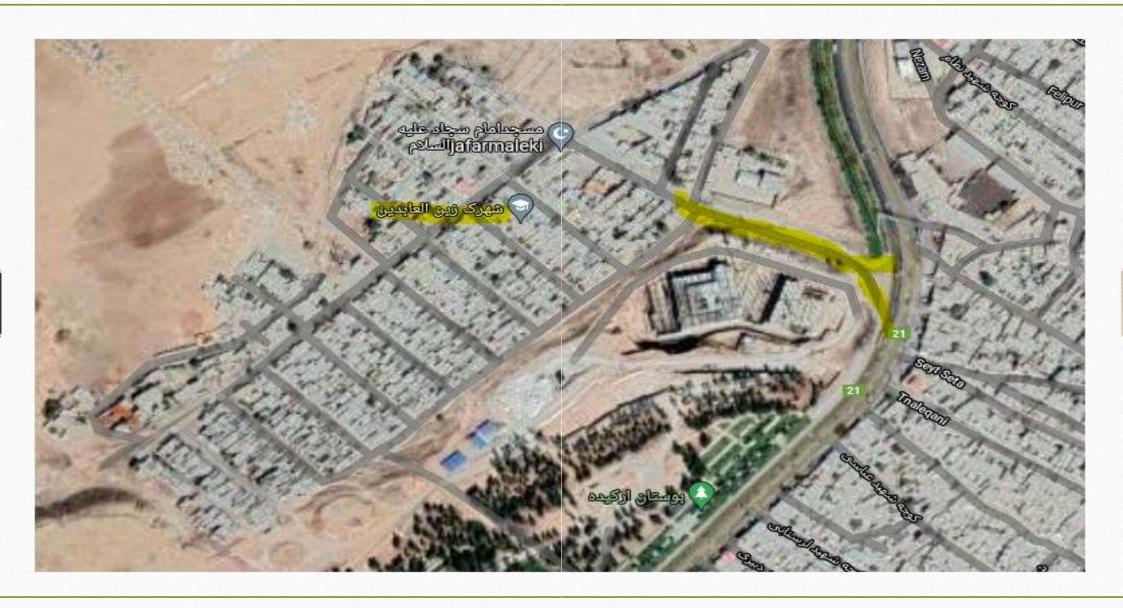


### Kermanshah Province

- Kermanshah Province is one of the 31 provinces of Iran. A majority of people in Kermanshah Province are Shia, and there are Sunni and Yarsani minority groups.
- Kermanshah province is the most well-known province and socio-political center of western Iran. Its population is 1952434 and its center is the city of Kermanshah

### Kermanshah Province

- Kermanshah is the second province in terms of misery index (64%) after Hormozgan province in 2021. Also Kermanshah has the highest unemployment rate (14.7%) after Hormozgan (with 16.6%).
- According to the statistics contained in the blocks of the Statistics Center of Iran, Kermanshah city, has 11 marginalized and poor neighborhoods, with about 160/000 people.



### Chaman Zein Al-Abedin neighborhood

- Chaman Zein Al-Abedin is a small neighborhood in the southwest of Kermanshah, where there are about 660 households with a population of approximately 2200 people.
- Unemployment in Chaman neighborhood (33.47%) is higher than the average of marginalized neighborhoods.
- Chaman has the lowest adult literacy rate (58.81) among the 11 marginalized and poor neighborhoods of Kermanshah.
- The general illiteracy rate in Chaman neighborhood is (26.93%) which is the highest illiteracy rate among the suburbs in Kermanshah.

# Chaman Zein Al-Abedin neighborhood

- Chaman has 120 gypsy families (popular known as Kooli) in this neighborhood. These gypsies face many problems from the Muslims living in this neighborhood for performing religious ceremonies. In fact, in the Chaman neighborhood, which is the most isolated part of Kermanshah, there is a group of gypsies who experience double deprivation.
- Frequent social harms in Chaman include: working children, Drug trade, prostitution houses, and so on.
- There is only one government center in this suburban neighborhood, which is an elementary school. The Chaman neighborhood lacks street lighting, a garbage disposal system, a public transportation system and a healthy center.

### Healthy Neighborhood project

#### **Board Members:**

- Dr Ali Almasi: PhD of Environmental health and Social medicine
- Mr Nader Rajabi: Master of sciences in Sociology
- Dr Behnam Khaledi: PhD of Psychology
- Dr Mehdi Khezeli: PhD of Health education and health promotion
- Dr Yahya Salimi: PhD of Epidemiology
- Dr Fateme Sayyahi: PhD of speech and communication
- Alireza Zangeneh: Master of Geography and urban planning

# Healthy Neighborhood project

#### Objectives

- There are general objectives of the Healthy Neighborhood Project: (which we have just started)
- Promoting public health, with emphasis on special groups (women, children, the elderly) in the Chaman Zin al-Abedin neighborhood
- Improving the level of education, and economic, social and psychological empowerment of the target groups.
- Efforts to develop public infrastructure in the neighborhood (security, transportation, construction of healthy center, development of environmental health infrastructure, etc.)

## **Executive programs**

- Holding meetings and consultations with social activists and NGOs, and forming the core of activities to identify priority problems in the neighborhood (needs assessment)
- Segmentation the neighborhood and appoint local representatives of the blocks Workshop for local representatives
- Convincing representatives for social participation in promoting neighborhood health

## **Executive programs**

- Formation of the core of local trustees from among the representatives of the blocs
- Continuous communication and organization of group meetings for trustees
- Introducing the program through local media and meetings for competent officials to seek support for the project
- Attracting NGOs interested in collaborating on the project

### Obstacles

- Lack of cooperation of government organizations to solve the problems of Chaman neighborhood
- Negative attitude of people and officials towards Chaman neighborhood
- Isolation of Chaman neighborhood in terms of geographical access to the city

## Our expectations

- Introducing the topics of interest of the World Health Organization to intervene in this project
- Sharing the experiences of other countries and the further exchanges with ongoing projects around the world
- Provide financial resources for practical efforts in the project