



# 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Virology, Infectious Diseases and COVID-19

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## Social innovation based on collaboration between government and non-governmental organizations in COVID-19 crisis: evidence from Iran

**B**ackground: One of the effective ways to attract social collaboration to provide effective, prompt, and coordinated interventions in emergencies is through social innovation. The present study seeks to identify the factors affecting the implementation of the social innovation plan based on the collaboration between government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for saving people's lives in crises. The initial idea of this research was obtained from the best practice "Every Home Is a Health Base" which was implemented in Iran.

**Methods:** The Grounded Theory strategy has been used in this study. Based on the analysis of the collected data, 39 open codes were extracted and the factors affecting the implementation of the social innovation were identified.

**Results:** The eight axis codes as the factors affecting the implementation of the social innovation plan based on the collaboration between government and NGOs are as follows: Paying attention to the components of the NGOs collaboration effectiveness, investment to attract NGOs collaboration, the ability to manage the implementation, the ability of networking, the ability of policymaking, providing the necessary cultural and educational infrastructure; Existence of capable legal organizations to solve the executive problems of the plan and facilitate coordination, and controlling, containing and reducing the effects of the crisis, as consequences. **Conclusions:** Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic have shown the world that the current governmental and social structures are not efficient enough to respond quickly to the emergence of global challenges. The results of this research give governments and policymakers an efficient solution by involving NGOs, especially in times of widespread crises. Also, they can be used in planning for social development.