



Ford Foundation records, Tehran Office Program Files

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on October 22, 2020.

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

archive@rockarch.org

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory	7
Fellowships	7
Education grants	9
Rural village development programs	11

Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Ford Foundation
Title:	Ford Foundation records, Tehran Office Program Files
ID:	FA1534
Date [inclusive]:	1952-1964
Physical Description:	4 Cubic Feet 9 Hollinger boxes
Language of the Material:	Materials in the collection are predominately in English. Many of the files also include original Persian documents with attached or accompanying English translations, documents with English and Persian versions, and documents entirely in Persian.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The Ford Foundation was chartered by Henry and Edsel Ford in 1936 "to receive and administer funds for scientific, educational and charitable purposes, all for the public welfare", and initially served the Ford family's charitable interests in the Detroit area. Following the deaths of Edsel Ford (1943) and Henry Ford (1947), the Foundation was propelled to the forefront of philanthropy as the largest American foundation in terms of both endowment and yearly expenditures, and with an international scope to its major program areas. During the Foundation's first twenty years its major programs were in international economic development, primary and higher education, educational and public broadcasting, behavioral sciences, civil liberties, urban development, fine arts and the humanities. The Ford Foundation also partnered with the Rockefeller Foundation in supporting agricultural development in South America, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Since the 1970s, the Foundation has also pioneered programs in women's rights, energy policy, micro-financing in under-developed countries, establishing human rights groups, and improving international HIV/AIDS education.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Between 1952 and 1964, the Ford Foundation provided grant support to a number of different rural development and educational development projects in Iran. Programming in Iran was overseen by the Foundation's Office of the Near East Representative in Beirut, Lebanon, and in 1959, the Tehran, Iran Field Office was established. Work in the Tehran Office was conducted by a small number of program specialists/consultants and representative staff members. Over the years, program specialist/consultant staff included Paul Maris as an Agricultural Consultant, Arthur Lewis as a Program Specialist in Education, and Howard Bertsch as a Rural Development Consultant. Bertsch later served as a Consultant-Representative before Rey Hill succeeded him as Representative for Iran.

Ford issued grants directly to Iranian Government branches and organizations as well as to organizations providing assistance to Iran like the Near East Foundation. Rural development grants chiefly concerned agricultural credit cooperatives, village worker training programs, and projects that involved women in village development. Educational development grants chiefly concerned teacher training and curriculum development. The Tehran Office also coordinated Travel and Study Awards Program grants and other fellowships to individuals from Iran with the Beirut Office and assisted Ford fellows conducting research in Iran.

Ford Foundation programming in Iran was discontinued in 1964 as per the recommendations of Rey Hill.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

Collection contains the program files of the Ford Foundation field office in Tehran, Iran. These files concern Foundation fellowships related to Iran and Iranian awardees as well as the two main focus areas of the Tehran Office's program activity: educational development and rural village development. Records are organized into three individual series based on these three different subjects. With materials spanning from 1952 to 1964, the collection documents the entire history of Ford Foundation support to Iran as conducted through the Tehran Field Office which was established in 1959. Prior to 1959, programming for Iran was run out of the Ford Foundation's Beirut, Lebanon Office.

Correspondence, memos, drafts, notes, and reports within the collection were created by the Tehran Office program specialist/consultant staff (Paul Maris – Agricultural Development, Arthur Lewis – Education, Howard Bertsch – Rural Development) and representatives (Bertsch and Rey Hill). These records document communications between the Tehran staff and its supervising office, the Office of the Near East Representative in Beirut, Lebanon, other parts of the Ford Foundation, Iranian Government officials and staff, grantees like the Near East Foundation, collaborating organizations, and individual fellows. They also regard meetings between Foundation staff and Iranian Government officials, grant project proposals, approvals, progress, and close outs, coordination of travel awards for Iranian awardees,

and assistance to Foundation fellows conducting research in Iran. In addition to the aforementioned material formats, there are some photographs and publications in the collection.

Materials in the collection originate from two different sets of records transferred to the Rockefeller Archive Center. Files in Series 1. Fellowships and Series 3. Rural village development programs originated from an accession of program strategy records, and files in Series 2. Education grants originated from an accession of grant records. The materials' original containers and content indicated that the records were initially all organized together and were thus processed as one Tehran Office Program Files collection.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Collection is comprised of three series.

Collection arrangement is as follows:

Series 1. Fellowships, 1953-1964

Series 2. Education grants, 1955-1964

Series 3. Rural village development programs, 1952-1964

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

archive@rockarch.org

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

Conditions Governing Access

Open for research. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

Conditions Governing Use

Reproduction/duplication of archival items is routinely provided in accordance with "fair use". If the RAC does not hold copyright for an archival collection, or items within a collection, it is the users responsibility to contact the copyright holder, or make a fair effort to do so, prior to publication.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Ford Foundation archive was deposited at the RAC in 2011. Ford Foundation records, correspondence, reports, program files, and officers' papers were transferred to and accessioned by the RAC beginning in 2011.

This material was transferred to the RAC in 2019 and was ingested by the RAC as parts of Accession 2019:046 Ford Foundation records, Program Strategy records and Accession 2019:049 Ford Foundation records, Grant records.

Accessions continue as necessary.

Processing Information

Collection materials originated from two different sets of records transferred to the Rockefeller Archive Center: Accession 2019:046 Ford Foundation records, Program Strategy records and Accession 2019:049 Ford Foundation records, Grant records. The sequential box numbers on the original containers storing the materials suggested that the records were once kept together, and analysis of the containers' contents revealed that the documents all related to the Foundation's Tehran Office. It was then decided to process the documents from the two accessions into a single collection in accordance with the order of the original box numbers.

Processing Level 3: Standard Processing

Processed by Darren Young, August 2019

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Ford Foundation
- Iran
- Rural development -- Iran
- Agricultural development projects -- Iran
- Education and state -- Iran
- Curriculum planning -- Iran

- Rural credit

Collection Inventory

Fellowships, 1953-1964

Physical Description: 1.18 Cubic Feet About 2.5 LGL size Hollinger boxes

Processing Information:

Processing Information

Series was processed into the collection from Accession 2019:046 Ford Foundation records, Program Strategy records.

Scope and Contents

The series mostly contains files regarding Ford Foundation fellowships granted to Iranian citizens as well as Ford fellows conducting research in Iran. Iranians granted Travel and Study Awards Program grants and special fellowships by the Foundation were primarily interested in agricultural and rural development. Some of the correspondence regarding the Travel and Study Awards Program grantees discusses the Foundation's emphasis on grantees returning to Iran in order to apply their acquired knowledge and skills to the improvement of their home country. Other documents in the series show how the Tehran Office assisted Ford fellows journeying to and staying in Iran for the purpose of their research.

The series also contains a small amount of material regarding the Ford Foundation's support of agricultural and rural development programs in Burma. This material is comprised of lists of Foundation supported projects in Burma, reports, publications, and correspondence. It is unclear why these documents were stored with the Tehran Office records when they seem to have been created by the Foundation's office in Rangoon, Burma. One connection may be the two offices' shared interest in rural development programming.

Title/Description	Instances	
Travel and Study Awards Program, 1957-1964	box 1	folder 1-2
Scope and Contents		
Awards:		
Kayvan Najm-Abadi		
Ghassem Touyserkani		
Mohamad Sam		
Karim Fatemi		
Iraj Valipour		
Miscellaneous Travel and Study Grants		
Mostofi, Khosrow - Agricultural Project for Iran, 1958	box 1	folder 3
Sharify, Nasir - Special Fellowship, 1953-1958	box 1	folder 4

Scope and Contents

Image in the file is a photograph of Nasir Sharify that was attached to a fellowship application.

Ford Foundation Fellows, 1955-1962	box 1	folder 5-7
------------------------------------	-------	------------

Scope and Contents

The image in the file is a photograph of Kokab Moarefi that was attached to an application.

Overseas Development Training Associates, 1961-1963	box 1	folder 8
Travel and Study Awards Program - Hossein Mahdavi, 1963-1964	box 1	folder 9
Arasteh, Reza, 1957-1958	box 1	folder 10
Omid Shafa, Farangis - Request for Special Fellowship, 1953-1956	box 2	folder 11
Jazayeri, Mohammad Ali, 1955	box 2	folder 12
Hashimzade Fallah, Jalil - Regarding citrus studies in the United States, 1956	box 2	folder 13
Mahmoudi, Jalil - Land tenure reform in Iran, 1957-1959	box 2	folder 14
Mossaed, Houshang - Special Fellowship, 1957	box 2	folder 15
Fulbright grantees, 1954	box 2	folder 16
Travel and Study Awards Program - University of Shiraz, 1960-1962	box 2	folder 17
Institute of International Education (IIE) - Public Service Fellowships, 1959-1963	box 2	folder 18
Travel and Study Awards Program - Manuchehr Afzal, 1961-1963	box 2	folder 19
Travel and Study Awards Program - Manuchehr Safa-Isfahani, 1961-1964	box 2	folder 20
Ford Foundation supported programs - Fellowships, 1963-1964	box 2	folder 21
Reports regarding education and rural development, 1963-1964	box 2	folder 22-23
Land nationalization and cooperative farming in Burma, 1957	box 3	folder 24
Education in Asia, 1961-1962	box 3	folder 25
Agricultural projects in Burma, 1961-1962	box 3	folder 26-27
Travel and Study Awards Program - Ataollah Motadel, 1960-1963	box 3	folder 28
Ford Foundation in Burma, 1953-1963	box 3	folder 29-30

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Education grants, 1955-1964

Physical Description: 1.41 Cubic Feet About 3 LGL size Hollinger boxes

Processing Information:

Processing Information

Series was processed into the collection from Accession 2019:049 Ford Foundation records, Grant records.

Scope and Contents

Series contains files regarding grants that the Ford Foundation provided for educational development in Iran. These grants appear to have primarily focused on teacher training and recruitment and curriculum development. Correspondence, drafts, reports, planning materials, financial statements, and photographs document the Foundation's grant support to the National Teachers' College for the purpose of teacher training and recruitment. The files concerning those grants also include materials that discuss the eventual abolishment of the National Teachers' College due to the belief that it did not serve the Iranian Government's needs. Other files in the series regard the Foundation's assistance to the Iranian Government's Ministry of Education on curriculum development for various academic subjects at different educational levels. Some of the correspondence in these files discuss reorganization within the Ministry and potential internal conflict.

The series also holds some files that regard Foundation grants for the production of educational materials like a Persian language dictionary.

Title/Description	Instances	
Science Teaching in the Middle East - Consultant on science education to the Ministry of Education, Project No. 61-371, 1961-1962	box 3	folder 31
Franklin Publications - Persian dictionary, Project No. 61-4, 1960-1964	box 3	folder 32
Agricultural school at Shiraz University, 1955-1960	box 3	folder 33
National Teachers' College - Teacher-librarian training program, Project No. 60-226, 1960-1963	box 4	folder 34-35

Scope and Contents

The photographs in the file regard the teacher-librarian training program at the National Teachers' College in Tehran, Iran. They document instructive sessions that were part of the course as well as the work of the apprenticeship teams that were assigned to different school libraries.

Photograph captions provide information about the state of school libraries in Iran as well as the teacher-librarian training program. All of the photographs appear to have been created in 1960.

National Teachers' College - Recruitment of teachers, Project No. 60-60, 1959-1963	box 4	folder 36
Improvement of science education - Consultant on science education to the Ministry of Education, Project No. 61-371, 1960-1963	box 4	folder 37-38

Training of curriculum development specialists, Project No. 61-202, 1961-1962	box 4	folder 39
National Teachers' College visits, 1960-1961	box 4	folder 40
National Teachers' College - Administration and guidance training, 1959-1960	box 5	folder 41
National Teachers' College - Conferences with Manuchehr Taslimi, 1960-1961	box 5	folder 42
Ministry of Education - Secondary Mathematics Committee, 1960	box 5	folder 43
National Teachers' College - Elementary education, 1960-1961	box 5	folder 44
Ministry of Education - Social studies, 1960-1961	box 5	folder 45
Ministry of Education - Organization for curriculum development, 1961	box 5	folder 46
Ministry of Education - Summer-in-Service Training Course, 1961	box 5	folder 47
Ministry of Education - Science, first cycle, 1960-1961	box 5	folder 48
Ministry of Education - Supervision program, 1960	box 5	folder 49
Ministry of Education - National Science Teachers Association, 1960	box 5	folder 50
Ministry of Education - Science teaching, Travel and Study Awards Program grant, 1960-1961	box 5	folder 51
Ministry of Education - Elementary science curriculum, undated	box 5	folder 52
Ministry of Education - Persian literature, 1960	box 5	folder 53
Ministry of Education - Elementary health curriculum, 1960	box 5	folder 54
Ministry of Education - Conferences with Karim Fatemi, 1960-1961	box 5	folder 55
Ministry of Education - Administrative organization, 1960-1961	box 5	folder 56
Ministry of Education - Home economics, 1978-1979	box 5	folder 57
Isfahan Conference on Secondary Education, 1960-1961	box 5	folder 58
Iran Commission on Teacher Education, 1960-1961	box 6	folder 59
Possible educational projects in Iran, 1960-1961	box 6	folder 60
Royal Iranian Commission on Education, 1957-1961	box 6	folder 61
National University for Teacher Education - Institute of Education and Graduate Studies, 1961	box 6	folder 62
Foshay, Arthur Wells correspondence, 1960-1961	box 6	folder 63
Education research center, 1960-1961	box 6	folder 64
Franklin Press - General, 1960	box 6	folder 65
Franklin Press - Reading and language arts, 1960		

	box 6	folder 66
Franklin Press - Science, 1960	box 6	folder 67

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Rural village development programs, 1952-1964

Physical Description: 1.41 Cubic Feet About 2.5 LGL and 1 Half-LGL size Hollinger boxes

Processing Information:

Processing Information

Series was processed into the collection from Accession 2019:046 Ford Foundation records, Program Strategy records.

Scope and Contents

Series contains files regarding the Ford Foundation's support of rural village development programs in Iran. The Foundation issued grants directly to the Iranian Government as well as to foreign organizations providing support to Iran like the Near East Foundation. Some files within the series document how over the course of the Tehran Office's history, the Ford Foundation sought to shift the focus of some of its activities in Iran in order to encourage the institutionalization of rural development programs by the Iranian Government and lessen Iran's dependency on foreign aid for programs like rural credit cooperatives. In addition to containing records concerning rural credit cooperatives, the series also holds materials that regard village worker training programs and projects that involved rural Iranian women in village development.

Title/Description	Instances	
John McCauley - Cooperatives in Iran, 1955-1956	box 6	folder 68
Rural credit program, 1953-1954	box 6	folder 69
Near East Foundation - Agricultural credit program, Project No. 54-45, 1953-1958	box 6	folder 70
Cooperatives - General, 1953-1962	box 6	folder 71
Cooperative - Varamin, Iran, 1955-1956	box 6	folder 72
Cooperative - Pishva, Iran, 1957	box 7	folder 73
Agricultural credit program, 1953-1964	box 7	folder 74-76
Cooperative - Jajerud, Iran, 1954-1960	box 7	folder 77
Rural Credit Seminar on Cooperative Agricultural Credit in Iran, 1956-1957	box 7	folder 78
Agricultural Bank of Iran - Agricultural credit cooperatives, 1956-1958	box 7	folder 79
Near East Foundation - Village Training School, Varamin, Iran, Project No. 54-2, 1952-1957	box 8	folder 80-82
Asadollah Alam speeches - Tehran University lecture series "Agrarian Reform: Its World Wide and Domestic Implications", undated	box 8	folder 83

Agricultural Bank of Iran Advisory Board, 1954-1959	box 8	folder 84
Agricultural credit program, 1955	box 8	folder 85
Program for village women, Project No. 55-62 - Najmeh Najafi, 1954-1958	box 8	folder 86
Near East Foundation - Program for village women, Project No. 55-62, 1954-1957	box 8	folder 87
Government of Iran - Village development block program, Project No. 55-77, 1955-1956	box 9	folder 88-89

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)