CURRENT SITUATION IN IRAN

Hassan Rouhani's upset victory in the June 2013 presidential election created great expectations of change. The new centrist president pledged to resolve the nuclear dispute, improve Iran's relations with the outside world, revitalize the economy, and encourage a more open society. In November 2013, the Islamic Republic reached an interim nuclear agreement with the world's six major powers. But after more than a year of negotiations, the two sides have yet to close gaps on pivotal issues. Rouhani needs a foreign policy success to implement his domestic agenda.

USIP'S WORK

USIP conducts research and policy analysis on major developments in Iran. USIP experts also provide regular briefings for Members of Congress and staff and for officials at the Department of State and other branches of the U.S. government. USIP's work includes:

The Iran Primer: A book and a continuously updated website (iranprimer.usip.org) that offer a comprehensive but concise overview of Iran's politics, economy, military, foreign policy, and nuclear program. The website includes analysis by more than 100 of the world's leading experts on Iran in the West and in the Middle East. They represent some 20 foreign policy think tanks, eight universities, and six U.S. administrations.

The Iran Forum: USIP is leading an unprecedented coalition of think tanks to organize a series of public events and congressional briefings on pivotal issues related to the nuclear dispute.

Relationship building: USIP maintains contact with Iranian think tanks, foreign affairs analysts, economists, women's rights activists and Iranian officials, including the presidency, to stay up to date on the latest political, economic and social trends in Iran.

USIP EVENTS

USIP hosts events that bring together thought leaders, scholars, experts, policymakers and elected officials. Examples include:

The Rubik's Cube™ of a Final Agreement: In May 2014, two former U.S. officials, a RAND Corp. analyst and a longtime advocate for eliminating the threat of nuclear weapons examined the volatile issues still to be resolved and the many formulations for potential solutions.

Nuclear Flashpoints: U.S.-Iran Tensions Over Timetables and Terms: In June 2014, an expert panel explored key conflicts and possible trade-offs in a final nuclear deal with Iran.

Iran Sanctions-What the U.S. Ceases in a Nuclear Deal: Since 2006, the United States has imposed more sanctions on Iran than any other country, so it may have to cede the most ground to get a nuclear deal. An expert panel assembled by eight Washington think tanks and organizations examined the potential trade-offs during a discussion in July 2014.