

**Table 1 Project stages and descriptions**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Description</b>
I: Literature review	We performed a non-systematic limited scoping review, using searches on PubMed and Google Scholar up to May 2020 with these keywords: guideline, ethical framework, ethical report, pandemic, epidemic, infectious disease outbreak, and COVID-19. We considered references suggested by experts. Our inclusion criteria included studies and recommendation papers in the English language on ethical responses during outbreaks. Papers with topics unrelated to the research, in-depth literature, and studies limited to clinical ethics and bioethics were excluded. We then compiled a list of 14 documents primarily published by international organizations (Table 4). The result was a list of ethical issues and their corresponding recommendations presented in the Persian language.
II: Compilation of the first draft	Several small groups discussed the ethical issues derived from the literature review, considering Iran's cultural and social context, its healthcare system's structure, and the challenges encountered during IDOs. The discussions were documented and structured into sections, leading to the initial draft of the guidelines.
III: Consecutive expert review panel	The draft guidelines was sent by email to the Medical Ethics Council of the Iranian Academy of Medical Sciences." Subsequently, 2 expert review panels were conducted, during which a collective critical review was carried out.
IV: Approval	In a joint assembly of the National Clinical Ethics Committee and the Supreme Council of Medical Ethics, the final document was introduced and endorsed as the official guidelines for ethical responses to IDOs in the Islamic Republic of Iran.