



UNITED NATIONS  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

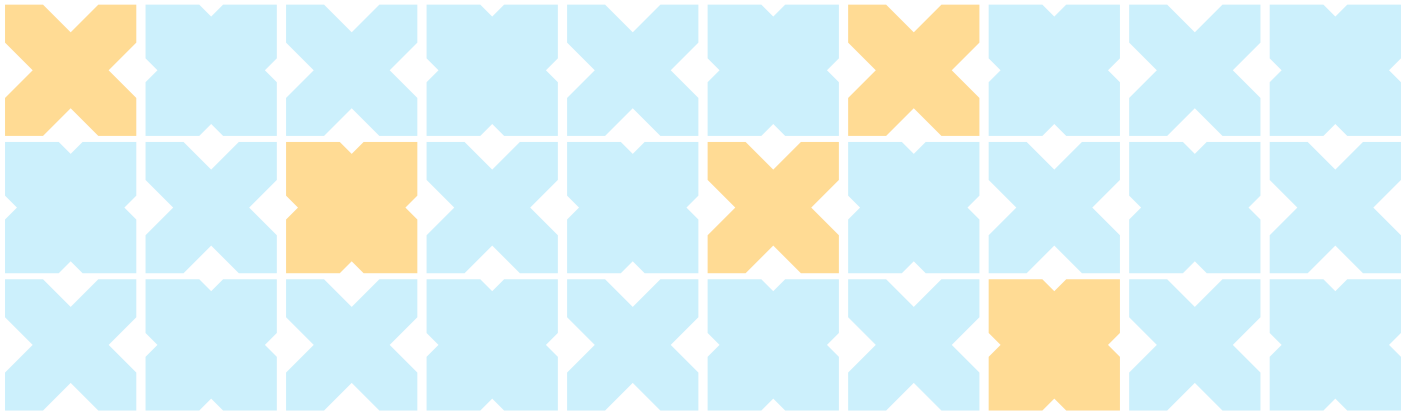


# UN COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT

# IRAN 2022







## MESSAGE FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR



**STEFAN PRIESNER**  
UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR  
IN THE I.R. OF IRAN

In my capacity as UN Resident Coordinator (RC), I am pleased to share the 2022 UN Country Results Report for the Islamic Republic of Iran – on behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and all colleagues at UN Iran.

The year 2022 was unique in many ways, and significant for the work of the UN in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Against the backdrop of a challenging environment with many external factors impacting our programmes, efforts continued towards delivering on our promise of leaving no one behind. As Iran continued to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 saw the completion of our previous programming cycle – the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which we implemented from 2017 to 2022.

For much of 2022, the RC and the UNCT were engaged in discussions on a new development framework for the years 2023-2027. I am pleased to announce that this framework – the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) – was endorsed in late 2022, paving the way for the next five years of programming in Iran.

As the report before you highlights, the UNCT continued to display a strong collaborative spirit as a team, with agencies and funds combining resources to deliver impactful programmes that achieve joint results for the benefit of the most vulnerable. I am confident that initiatives, such as the launch of the new One UN Impact Fund, will further enhance the coordinated approach within the UN family in the future.

Sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development remains at the core of our programmes and projects in the country, along with humanitarian support to the most vulnerable communities. Some of our efforts in 2022 included supporting environmental initiatives to conserve fragile watersheds and lakes, while contributing to the socio-economic well-being of farmers living on their periphery. In the context of our refugee response, UN projects benefited more than 3 million people – both refugees and host communities alike – ranging from school construction to in-kind and financial assistance to health facilities. From working on priorities such as drug control, improving health and well-being and support with disaster preparedness, the UN in Iran maintained a broad partnership with national counterparts.

Looking ahead, we are determined to work with all counterparts, focusing our efforts on innovative, integrated and results-oriented solutions; those needed if we are to – collectively – overcome the complex and intricate development challenges of 2023.

I would like to express my gratitude to our national counterparts for their continued collaboration, and to the large number of development donors and partners for their generous support in funding our programmes. Without such support, the people-centred results of our work would not be attainable. Thank you!

**Stefan Priesner**  
UN Resident Coordinator in the I.R. of Iran

# TABLE OF CONTENTS


<b>04</b>	<b>CHAPTER I: KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN THE COUNTRY</b>
<b>06</b>	<b>CHAPTER II: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN PRIORITIES</b>
08	OVERVIEW OF THE UNDAF RESULTS
10	UNDAF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
10	ENVIRONMENT
10	INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
12	LOW CARBON ECONOMY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
13	HEALTH
13	UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE
14	PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
15	PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF HIV/AIDS AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
16	PROMOTING HEALTH THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF LIFE
17	RESILIENT ECONOMY
17	INCLUSIVE GROWTH, POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE
18	FOOD SECURITY, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, AND IMPROVED NUTRITION
18	SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION
18	NATURAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT
18	SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT
19	POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
19	SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
20	DRUG CONTROL
20	DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT
20	DRUG SUPPLY REDUCTION
22	SUPPORT TO MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, UNDOCUMENTED PERSONS AND HOST COMMUNITIES
24	SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING
26	RESULTS OF UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY
27	EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED
27	FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION
<b>28</b>	<b>CHAPTER III: UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR THE NEXT YEAR</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>LIST OF ACRONYMS</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>COMPOSITION OF THE UN COUNTRY TEAM IN THE I.R. OF IRAN</b>
<b>33</b>	<b>KEY NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS</b>



# CHAPTER 1 | KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN THE COUNTRY

Copyright: UNIDO Iran | Saveh, 2022





In 2022, Iran experienced a 4% GDP growth. The unemployment rate, which was above 10% at the start of the year, steadily declined to just below 9% by the year's end. Moreover, the agriculture and service sectors exhibited growth rates of 1.1% and 2.7%, respectively. In addition, there was a slight reduction in poverty levels throughout 2022.

Throughout the period, Iran continued to face external challenges, including unilateral sanctions, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the global energy and inflation crises. The Government reacted to these challenges implementing growth-oriented strategies, focusing on fiscal stimulus, subsidies, and substantial budget allocations.

The 1401 Budget for March 2022 to March 2023

showcased a programmatic approach, utilizing total factor productivity (TFP) instruments to achieve a GDP growth target. In alignment with the objectives outlined in the 6<sup>th</sup> development plan, Iran aimed for a substantial portion, at least one-third of its GDP growth to be driven by TFP growth.

The finalisation of the drafting of Iran's 7<sup>th</sup> Five-year Development Plan in 2022 marked a pivotal moment. The plan embraces new strategies on taxation reforms, wealth redistribution, the strengthening of the welfare system, improved natural resources management, and enhancements in human capital and skills. The plan envisions an emphasis on building a resilient economy and fostering transformative development, which in turn highlights a shift towards labour-intensive investment approaches.







# CHAPTER 2 | UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN PRIORITIES

Copyright: UNICEF Iran | Yazd refugee settlement 2022



unicef   
for every child

Familia  
رغيف غذائي  
2010  
Familia  
رغيف غذائي  
2010  
Familia  
رغيف غذائي  
2010  
Familia  
رغيف غذائي  
2010



## 2.1. OVERVIEW OF THE UNDAF RESULTS

The UN in Iran continued to support Iran's national development and humanitarian priorities in 2022 while fostering resilience and ensuring a sustainable recovery from COVID-19. The United Nations Country Team leveraged its comparative advantages as an impartial provider of technical support and advice based on global experience, as well as a facilitator of knowledge transfer and exchange through South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

The Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for Afghanistan Situation, developed in 2022, has a goal of advancing solutions with a focus on host communities and the most vulnerable Afghans in Iran. It served as the main conduit for UN humanitarian assistance related to refugees. In accordance with its mandate, the United Nations has supplemented the Government's generous ongoing assistance to Afghan refugees—both those with legal status and those without.

In 2022, the UN estimated that 3,432,422 individuals benefited directly and indirectly from RRP humanitarian interventions in the fields of education, health and nutrition, food security, livelihood, protection, shelter (NFI), and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). This also includes providing subsistence, the voluntary return of refugees and migrants, and assistance to host communities. The plan prioritises support for public services, especially health and education, in areas of high need, where the vulnerabilities of refugees and host communities intersect.

The UN provided support for its development programmes with the Islamic Republic of Iran under the auspices of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017-2022, a strategic and programmatic framework of cooperation between the Government of Iran and the United Nations. The UNDAF's 15 outcomes are divided across five strategic pillars aligned with Iran's Sixth Economic, Cultural and Social Development Plan 2017-2022.



### 1. ENVIRONMENT

- 1.1: INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- 1.2: LOW CARBON ECONOMY & CLIMATE CHANGE



### 3. RESILIENT ECONOMY

- 3.1: INCLUSIVE GROWTH, POVERTY ERADICATION & SOCIAL WELFARE
- 3.2: FOOD SECURITY, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & IMPROVED NUTRITION
- 3.3: SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION
- 3.4: NATURAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT
- 3.5: SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT
- 3.6: POPULATION & DEVELOPMENT
- 3.7: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM & CULTURAL HERITAGE



### 2. HEALTH

- 2.1: UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC)
- 2.2: PREVENTION & CONTROL OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCD)
- 2.3: PREVENTION & CONTROL OF HIV/AIDS & OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
- 2.4: PROMOTING HEALTH THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF LIFE (PHC)



### 4. DRUG CONTROL

- 4.1: DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION & TREATMENT
- 4.2: DRUG SUPPLY REDUCTION



## KEY CHALLENGES:

Although the **COVID-19 PANDEMIC** has been successfully controlled globally, programme implementation, particularly in the field, was delayed by COVID-19-related travel and movement restrictions, which continued until 2023. To address this issue, online seminars and workshops were offered as an alternative to in-person meetings, allowing for continued engagement and collaboration with stakeholders.

The **UNILATERAL SANCTIONS** have had a significant impact on UN operations in Iran, restricting resource mobilization, donor space, and access to vertical funds such as the Global Environment Facility, Adaptation Fund, and Green Climate Fund.

Support provided under the UNDAF in Iran involved a range of initiatives to mitigate challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen the healthcare system. Social protection and job generation, sustainable land and water management, climate change adaptation, and drug control were also prioritised. Investments in human capital development have transformed the lives of people in vulnerable situations such as households headed by women, children, youth, people with disabilities, and the elderly, improving their livelihoods, and enhancing their access to essential services and resources.



Copyright: UNIC Tehran | World Environment Campaign July 2022

# 2.2. UNDAF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

## ENVIRONMENT



Copyright: UNESCO Iran | Harra Biosphere reserve, 2022

**CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES: UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, UN-HABITAT, UNIDO, UNICEF**

### SUPPORTED



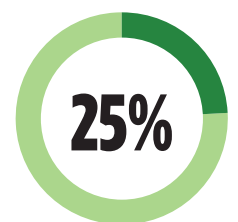
**ALIGNMENT WITH SIXTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 31, 35, 38, 39, 44, 48, 50**

### OUTCOME 1.1. INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Lake Urmia, once a thriving domestic tourism destination, faced a decline in the 2000s and early 2010s. To address the environmental challenge, the UN system remains committed to supporting the Government in the rehabilitation of Lake Urmia, with a goal of increasing its ecological water level to 1,274 meters by 2025. The UN supports to date have contributed with a view to saving the lake's water, easing pressure on water resources through reducing the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, and promoting sustainable job generation in East and West Azerbaijan provinces.

In addition to these ongoing supports, the Government and FAO jointly finalised a new socio-economic livelihood programme and action plan in 2022 including an integrated watershed management plan in Lake Urmia's Barandouz Chai sub-basin to improve local institutional capacities, with an accompanying roadmap in development that will show how upscaling integrated watershed management could contribute to the restoration of Lake Urmia.

The UN estimates that carbon emissions from dryland soil stock were reduced, and sequestration capacity increased in more than 350 hectares of land through participatory



**SAVING THE LAKE'S WATER**



dryland forest and rangeland rehabilitation in four provinces of South Khorasan, North Khorasan, Golestan and Yazd. Furthermore, according to the UN assessment, fuel wood consumption was also reduced by providing 950 gas-based bakery workshops and 500 gas ovens to target villagers in two pilots. Additionally, the resilience of the agriculture sector against climate change was increased among 100 farmer families by introducing climate-smart agriculture best practices and technologies.

In the past few years, UNESCO has been actively supporting the Government in raising public awareness of eco-social issues in Biosphere Reserves in Iran, including Lake Urmia, Miankaleh, Turan, and Harra. In 2022, UNESCO workshops and educational activities were held to raise awareness among over 5,000 people of traditional knowledge in water management and the sustainable use of ecosystem services. UNESCO has also documented the best environmental practices of local communities to support their continuation.

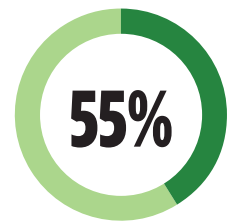
The UNDP has been working closely with national and international development partners to help conserving Iran's wetlands sharing best practices, informing better national policies and plans, and supporting the introduction of integrated and participatory ecosystem-based approaches for the conservation of around 38 wetlands in more than 25 Iranian provinces. In 2022, these projects helped improve the livelihoods of local farmers around Lake Urmia and two other pilot wetland basins—Shadeghan and Bakhteghan - by providing them with knowledge, skills, and tools to help them transition to more sustainable farming methods. The projects helped increase biodiversity and improve the environment by reducing agriculture water consumption and the consumption of agrochemicals across the pilot basins.

Another example of promoting climate-smart and sustainable livelihoods was the joint initiative between the Department of Environment, the European Union's Department of International Partnerships and UNDP that was initially aimed to cover more than 200,000 hectares of fragile ecosystems across 120 project pilot sites in Sistan and Baluchestan province. On 8 December 2022, the main donor decided to suspend the funding of the project, and, as a result, implementation has been suspended.

Digital technologies have been utilized to accelerate sustainable development in Iran. According to the UNDP Iran Office, twelve digital hubs have been established by UNDP to support the branding and marketing of locally produced goods in the Lake Urmia Basin. This has paved the way for 300 farmers to access digital equipment and technical support. As a result, 130 farmers have been included in the national e-commerce platform, contributing to increased income, improved livelihoods, and socio-economic development in rural communities.



Copyright: UNDP Iran | *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, Hamun Lake, 2022



**REDUCING THE USE OF  
CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS  
AND PESTICIDES**



**38**

**CONSERVATION OF 38  
WETLANDS IN 25 PROVINCES**



**27.1%**

**REDUCTION OF  
AGRICULTURE WATER  
CONSUMPTION**



**40%**

**DECREASE IN CONSUMPTION OF  
AGROCHEMICALS IN THE PILOT  
WETLAND BASINS**

## OUTCOME 1.2. LOW CARBON ECONOMY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2022, Iran and the World Health Organization partnered to strengthen regional capacity to address common health challenges, including those related to the environment. To this end, a National Strategic Plan (2022-2027)<sup>1</sup> covering areas such as climate change and health, air pollution and sand and dust storms, chemical safety, food safety, water, sanitation, and hygiene, waste management, and occupational health was drawn up. The plan aims to promote and protect public health, resilience, energy efficiency of the health system, and environmental sustainability in Iran.

Furthermore, strategic directions were developed for healthcare climate resilience and a national costed roadmap for water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management (WASH). Assessments of over 700 healthcare facilities identified priority areas for action and informed national technical standards for WASH in healthcare.

Government stakeholders' knowledge of risk, resilience and accountability in the water sector was strengthened through a 4-day WASH Bottleneck Analysis Training (WASH-BAT) attended by participants from the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Health, and the Water and Wastewater Company at the national and provincial level including service providers in eight provinces. An implementation plan was agreed upon to roll out WASH-BAT, which will further improve the service providers' ability to deliver risk-informed and accountable water services in Iran.

Training and capacity development measures on carbon footprint estimation tools have been carried out by WHO to help improve energy efficiency in the health sector. According to WHO Iran, technicians in six provinces were trained in carbon footprint estimation tools, enabling them to identify and analyse carbon footprints at healthcare facilities. This was followed by piloting the tools at selected healthcare facilities to test their effectiveness, resulting in notable improvements in energy efficiency in the health sector.

Following the procurement and installation of two sets of autoclave waste management equipment in Firoozgar and Imam Khomeini hospitals undertaken under the UNIDO South-South Cooperation programme in 2021, 130 hospital staff received pieces of training on safe and efficient waste management. As a result of this South-South Cooperation programme, the hospitals' workforce is now equipped with the necessary facilities to handle and dispose of medical waste safely and efficiently.

Access to clean water was provided to the host population and the residents of Saveh refugee settlement in Markazi province through the installation of a water purification system and technical training on its operation. In addition to this, as part of UNIDO's efforts to promote empowerment and create livelihood opportunities, UNIDO established a 500-square-meter greenhouse in this settlement and provided technical and maintenance training.

Through the UNIDO and WHO joint initiative, five cold rooms equipped with ozone-safe refrigerants were installed in Golestan and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad provinces, with the aim of improving energy efficiency in cold chain systems.

Continued efforts by the National Ozone Unit of the Department of Environment, with support from international partners such as UNEP, UNIDO, UNDP and GIZ, enabled Iran to surpass its Montreal Protocol control target well ahead of the end-of-year deadline for 2022. Imported ozone-depleting substances to the country during the reporting period declined to 91.2 Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP) tones compared to a 2022 control target for maximum allowable consumption of 247.33 ODP tones. This dramatic improvement results from a 76% reduction in Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) imported in 2022 compared with 2021.

UNDP supported installation of 108 kWp Solar PV in eight disaster response centres in the Tehran Municipality, as well as at one innovation centre at the University of Tehran. In addition, eight public buildings were equipped with Solar Water Heater (SWH) systems, and the first near Zero Energy Building (nZEB) was designed in Iran. These initiatives helped the Government initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and encouraged the use of renewable and sustainable energies while fostering innovation and improving energy security. Additionally, UNDP supported improved energy efficiency for low-energy buildings (EC+) pilots in Tehran resulting in an annual energy savings and generation of natural gas and electricity.



Copyright: FAO Iran | Amin Naimi, 2022





**HEALTH**

Copyright: WHO Iran | 2022

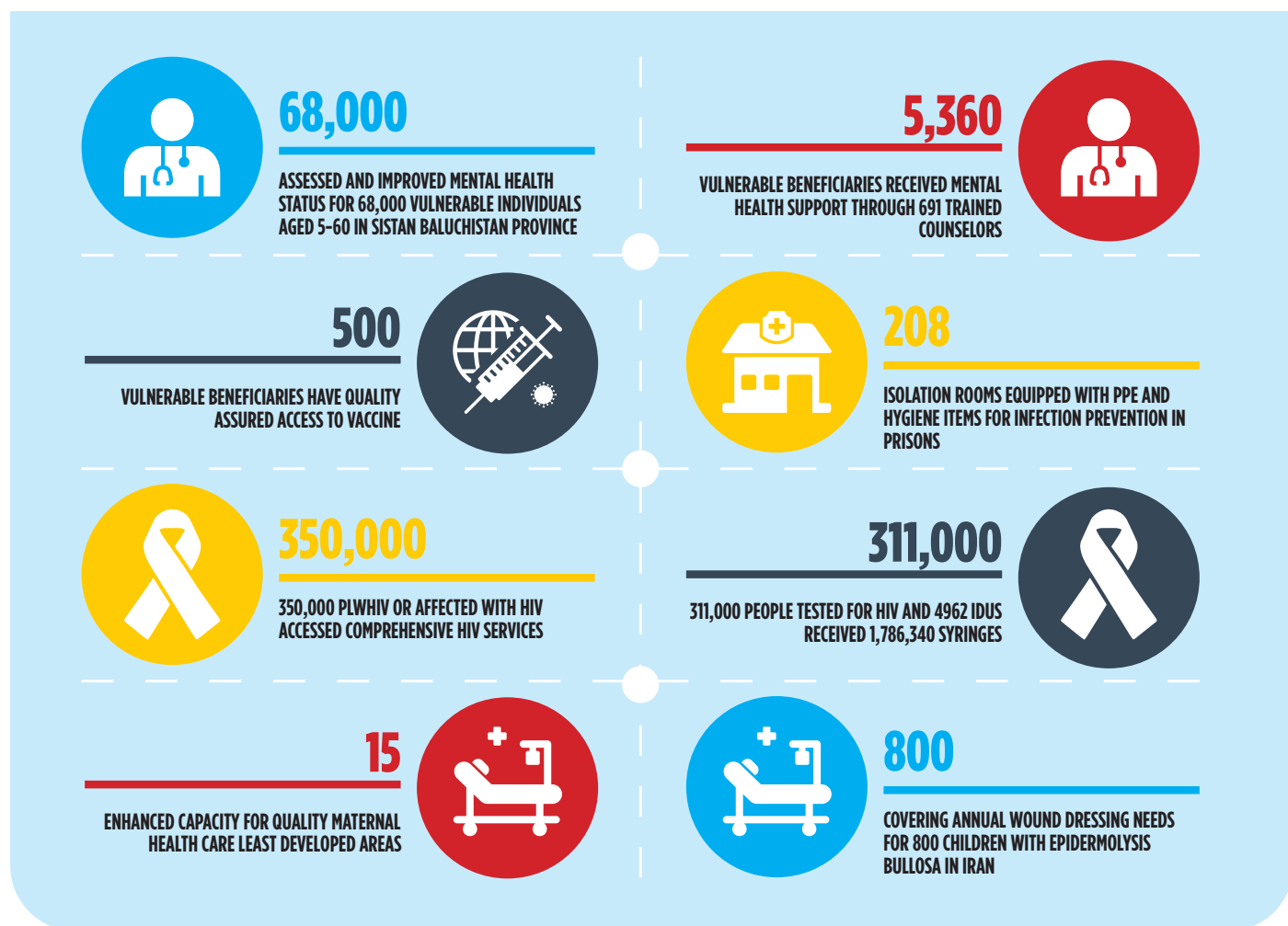
**CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES: WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, FAO****SUPPORTED****ALIGNMENT WITH SIXTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 70, 73, 74, 80, 108****OUTCOME 2.1. UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE**

A robust evidence-based approach also informs insurance coverage decisions contributing towards universal health coverage. To this end, supported by UN as a Triangular Cooperation in collaboration with the Netherland's Radboud University Medical Centre, Iran's diabetes benefits package was revised using MCDA/EDP methodology and WHO UHC-Compendium to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure for diabetes patients.

Benchmarking tools based on international best practices are also helping drive efficiency improvements in the healthcare system. Iran's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) assessed the functionality of the national regulatory body for vaccination, consulting WHO's Global Benchmarking Tool. Based on the assessment results, improvements are being planned to enhance the regulatory framework for vaccines. Additionally, an international technical mission commissioned by WHO reviewed the Good Manufacturing Practices and Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Control of three vaccine producers and provided recommendations for their improvement.

Technical and financial support from the UN aided two Cohort Event Monitoring (CEM) studies aimed at assessing the safety of the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine in under-18s and over-18s who had received the jabs. Iran's CEM studies were a component of global research that showed the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine produced no significant side effects in under-18s and detected very few serious adverse events in the over-18 population.

## IMPROVED EQUITABLE ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES, ESSENTIAL MEDICINE, AND DIAGNOSTICS:



## OUTCOME 2.2. PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) still represent the 21st century's biggest health challenge. In 2022, development of a new online dashboard in Farsi and English supported by UN has enabled health providers in Iran in selected cities across all 31 provinces to better monitor, identify service gaps, and evaluate the effectiveness of NCDs interventions. The UN also conducted a mid-term review of the work of Iran's National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP). The scope of Iran's Cancer Information Management System (CIMA) was enhanced through establishing cross linkages between Iran's cancer databases in the country.

According to 2019 figures, mental health and substance abuse disorders contribute 10% of Iran's total health burden. In line with WHO's Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) in Iran, after-release mental health and social services were provided to hospitalized patients with mental health disorders. In addition, based on the achieved experience, a scale-up plan would be developed.

In parallel, a series of UN-led workshops were organized with a view to strengthening the capacity of the relevant Government and non-government organisations to provide mental health and psychosocial support services to children and adolescents.

Furthermore, Iran's first-ever National Plan for Assistive Technology was developed in collaboration with relevant Government ministries and organizations to improve access to assistive technologies for people with disabilities and involve various stakeholders in its implementation.

Road traffic accidents are among the top five causes of death in Iran. Under the auspices of the Safe System Approach (SSA), the UN supported implementation of a speed management project in six selected corridors comprising about 1400 km in Isfahan, Khorasan-e Razavi, and Markazi provinces.

As with road safety, changes in public behaviour can save lives. To this end, the UN supported the Government in implementing three new strategies on tobacco cessation in 2022, including incorporating tobacco cessation services into primary health care system, establishing a free helpline, and forming a coalition of 30 NGOs involved in tobacco control, in coordination with the relevant national implementing partner. Additionally, a model for raising taxes on tobacco products appropriate to Iran's context was developed, along with an advocacy document and investment case to support the proposed model.



## OUTCOME 2.3. PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF HIV/AIDS AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Iran's health authorities had administered nearly 155 million COVID-19 vaccine doses by 15 January 2023 as part of a massive mobilisation effort to combat the pandemic. This figure includes three million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine received in 2022 through the UN-supported COVAX facility.

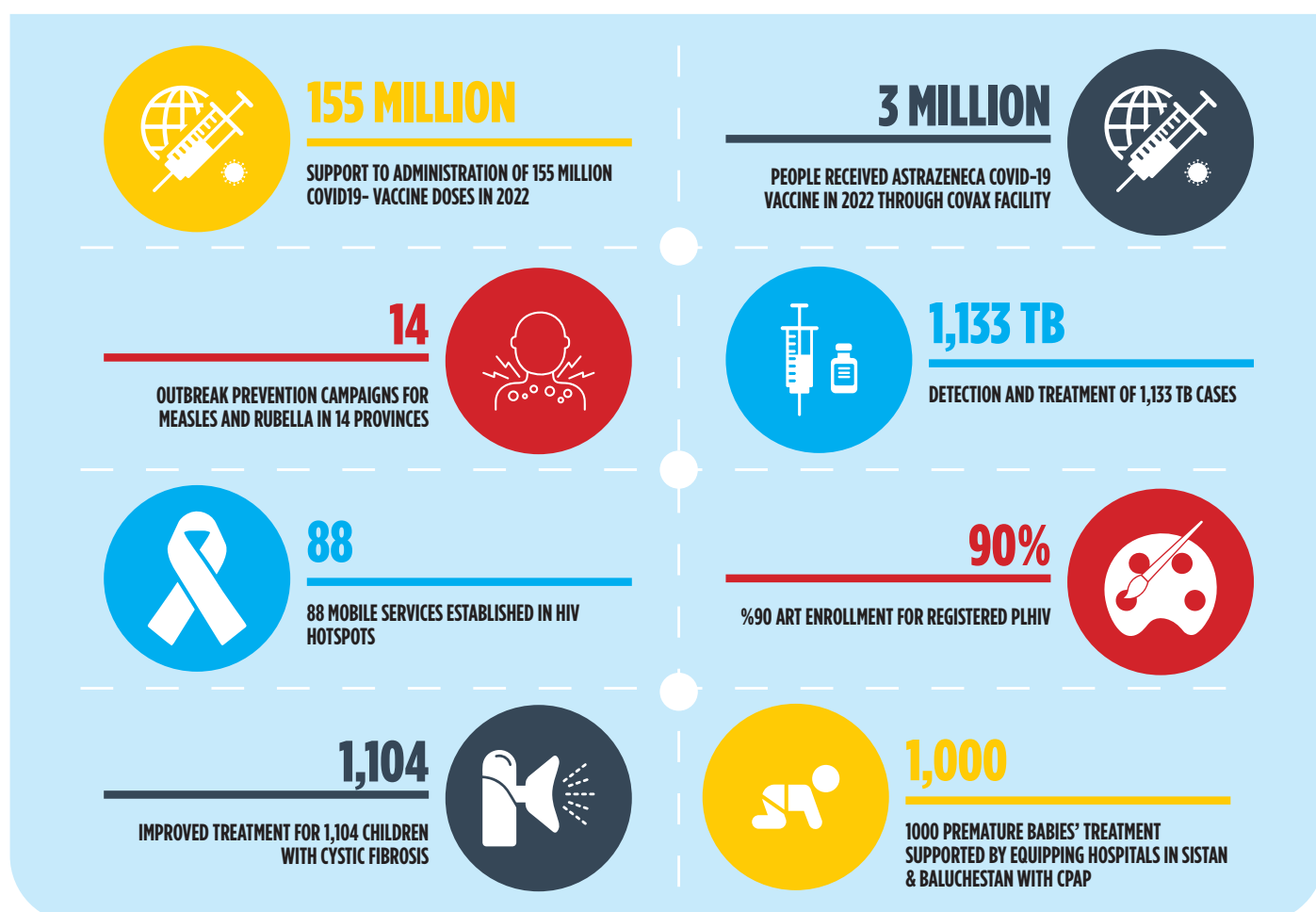
Further support for Iran's COVID-19 vaccination efforts also came from WHO and UNIDO's joint equipping of five cold rooms with environmentally sustainable, resilient, and ozone-friendly hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants, which shored up the vaccine cold chain system in Golestan, Kohgiluyeh, and Boyer-Ahmad provinces. The UN's distribution of some 500 cold chain refrigerators and power generators to health care centres and refugee camps in Zabol, Mashhad and Torbate-Jam, ensured that both refugees and the host community have quality assured access to vaccines.

Experience acquired during the COVID-19 pandemic is also helping mitigate tomorrow's risks. For example, the UN equipped 208 prison isolation rooms with PPE and hygiene items to prevent infections and protect prison populations during future outbreaks. The UN also collaborated with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders to draft an integrated influenza, COVID-19, and epidemic-prone acute respiratory infections preparedness and response plan for Iran.

While COVID-19 remained among the chief public health concerns of 2022, a rise in Iran's measles caseload in 2022 mirrored an alarming global trend. In Iran, UNICEF and WHO collaborated in increasing the coverage of COVID-19 vaccinations as well as Measles, and Rubella vaccinations in 14 provinces where measles outbreaks posed a risk to children and adolescents. WHO and UNICEF also supported the Iranian Center for Communicable Diseases Control in obtaining verification for the administration of nOPV2 vaccines to control polio outbreaks. To maintain Iran's zero transmissions status, the UN supports the country's Malaria Elimination programme through the procurement of equipment and diagnostics. However, there were no local transmissions of malaria in the country.

Almost 20% of Iran's total number of TB cases in 2022 were among Afghan migrants and refugees. By 10 December 2022, the UN had supported Active Case Finding—or systematic screening for tuberculosis—for 233,309 Afghans in Iran resulting in the detection of TB in 1,133 patients, with those patients now receiving treatment, according to WHO figures. Meanwhile, UN support for the procurement and delivery of reagents, antibiotics and test kits helped Iran's National TB Reference Lab pass WHO's External Quality Assurance Programme, maintaining globally recognised credentials for TB diagnosis and resistance testing.

Throughout the multiple waves of COVID-19 in Iran, UNAIDS has provided support to people living with and affected by HIV, providing PPE and medicines. In 2022, the Joint UN Team on AIDS, in collaboration with Iran's National AIDS Programme helped some 350,000 people living with and affected by HIV—including refugees in three provinces—access HIV prevention and testing, harm reduction



services, psychosocial support, and voluntary counselling and testing/ART referral services. According to UNAIDS Iran, most of those, around 311,000 people, were tested for HIV. Further, the procurement and distribution of 1,786,340 syringes helped ensure that 4,962 more people who inject drugs could have access to clean needles, reducing the risk of HIV infection and transmission. The joint team also established 88 mobile stations to improve service delivery in known HIV hotspots. The Joint Team's procurement of a range of essential HIV prevention, testing and treatment commodities contributed to more than 90% of the registered PLHIV enrolling in ART programmes.

Thanks to UN supports, more people living with and affected by HIV have access to Differentiated HIV Services Delivery, based on models piloted in 20 HIV clinics in different cities with the monitoring and evaluation package. More adolescents and youth also have access to integrated HIV prevention/SRH-care services including the rollout and formative evaluation of the integration of core HIV services for adolescents and youth into existing voluntary counselling and testing facilities. The Joint UN Team on AIDS also supported the development of several key knowledge products in 2022. These include Iran's first integrated bio-behavioural survey among the vulnerable at the greatest risk of HIV, a global AIDS Monitoring report and data and Spectrum country projections, a qualitative review of access to harm reduction services in Tehran, response protocols for HIV Stigma and Discrimination in humanitarian and emergency settings, followed by a virtual training on those protocols, and a process evaluation to identify the main barriers to HIV case finding.

## OUTCOME 2.4. PROMOTING HEALTH THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF LIFE

In 2022, a UN collaboration with the Ministry of Health strengthened the ministry's maternal health care and midwifery programme through a comprehensive analysis of the status of Iranian midwifery. The analysis identified challenges, strengths and weaknesses and provided recommendations for strengthening midwifery and promoting natural childbirth. It also addressed inequalities in maternal and neonatal health care in the provinces with higher maternal mortality and morbidity through the introduction of telemedicine in primary health care and other tools. Following the analysis, the UNFPA's procurement of labour beds, foetal monitoring devices, foetal heart rate detectors and high-tech sonography devices enhanced the ability of 15 hospitals in Iranshahr, Zahedan and Zabol to provide high-quality maternal health, pregnancy and delivery care. The procurement of eight ambulances improved the access to care for pregnant women living in remote areas.

To better cater to the needs of lactating women, the UN developed a range of training materials enhancing the ability of healthcare providers to support breastfeeding mothers. A pilot food and nutrition surveillance system supported the ministry in the real-time monitoring of the nutritional status of children under five in eight food-insecure provinces. The results of this study fed into the development of policies to address malnutrition and enhance the nutritional status of children in those provinces. According to UNICEF Iran, almost two million under-fives received mega dose vitamin A supplements and improved their nutritional status through the UNICEF procurement support. In addition, routine dietary supplementation improved the nutritional status of 3000 under-fives and 1000 pregnant women in refugee settlements and host communities.

The UN's procurement of a variety of medicines and medical equipment contributed to improving the welfare of children with a variety of health complaints in 2022. The UNICEF procurement of Epidermolysis bullosa (EB) wound dressings that hadn't been possible to be undertaken by national authorities due to the unilateral sanctions over compliance of the producers, met the yearly wound dressing needs of 800 children with EB, a rare condition that causes fragile, blistering skin. According to UNICEF Iran, the procurement of nebulisers improved treatment for 1104 children with cystic fibrosis. The procurement of weight scales and stadiometers helped 140 health facilities in selected provinces more effectively monitor children's growth. Further, the procurement of equipment to support Continuous Positive Airway Pressure treatment helped treat respiratory problems among 1000 sick and prematurely born babies at hospitals in Sistan and Baluchestan province.

To enhance long-term care facilities' response and risk reduction capacity in relation to respiratory infections, WHO partnered with Iran's Ministry of Health and State Welfare Organization. The partnership assessed and supported preparation of 30 isolation spaces in 30 long-term care facilities across 14 provinces that host over 7200 elderly and people living with disabilities. In addition, comprehensive guidelines and standard operating procedures were developed to reduce the risk of respiratory infections at long-term care facilities. It also trained more than 100 experts from the SWO and long-term care facilities on isolation room standards and monitoring project interventions.

Finally, to promote healthy lifestyles, and social integration among the elderly community in Tehran, the Municipality of Tehran and the UN co-organized a city-wide festival called "Happy Senior Citizens". About 6,500 over-65s and their grandchildren joined a wide range of active outdoor games as part of the festival. Additionally, UNFPA delivered hearing aids to about 1000 residents of elderly care centres in Tehran.



Copyright: WHO Iran | WHO, EU and Canada project to improve access to inclusive health care for older persons and people living with disabilities, 2022



# RESILIENT ECONOMY



Copyright: UNESCO Iran | Miankaleh Biosphere Reserve 2022

**CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES: UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, FAO, UNIDO, WHO**

## SUPPORTED



**ALIGNMENT WITH SIXTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 4, 27, 31, 33, 37, 48, 52, 59, 63, 65, 66, 70, 77, 80, 98, 99**

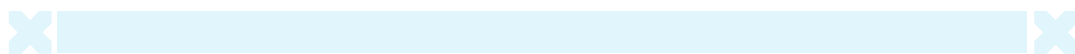
## OUTCOME 3.1. INCLUSIVE GROWTH, POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Iran has faced multiple challenges to inclusive growth and poverty eradication in recent years, including the impact of unilateral sanctions since 2018, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN continues to work with Iran on several fronts to mitigate the impact of these crises and to ensure the social welfare of all people in Iran.

COVID-19 impact on the most vulnerable citizens underscored the need for increased vigilance to prevent the spread of new and existing pathogens. In 2022, according to UNICEF Iran, UNICEF contributed to the strengthening disease surveillance in Iran's least-developed provinces through supporting the health screening of 97,454 children during school enrolment. To support the Government's commitment to ensuring all children in Iran have access to education, 500 schools were provided with educational materials for almost 200,000 students, 67,917 of whom are Afghans. A series of trainings enhanced the management skills of 500 secondary boarding school principals, contributing towards creating safe learning environments for 158,795 students in hard-to-reach areas. 80 "trainers of trainers" in 32 provinces learned new skills to develop tailored digital content for children with disabilities through a workshop organised by UNICEF.

In collaboration with the Iranian Red Crescent Society, UNICEF supported the establishment of a national workforce on child protection in emergencies.

With water reservoirs at an all-time low and amid the threat of nationwide rationing, a UNICEF-backed study of water scarcity drivers conducted by the Stockholm International Water Institute under the supervision of the Ministry of Energy identified the triggers and recommended measures on addressing water scarcity in Iran. The Government also received assistance in developing a new build-back better strategy for the national water system to improve resilience and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters on the water infrastructure in two flood-prone provinces, benefiting more than 5,000 people. Meanwhile, construction of a 17 km water feeder line to



the Niatak refugee settlement commenced in 2022, which once completed will provide access to safe water to 7,000 Afghan refugees and nearby host communities.

In 2022, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and the Ministry of Cooperatives Labour and Social Welfare to move towards an integrated social protection system. This support included training of peer educators and analysis of the national social protection system in partnership with the International Policy Center for Inclusive Growth in Brazil through South-South collaboration and a study visit to Brazil, which inspired the design of a scalable social protection model in Iran called KIAN (Kodak Yare Iran). According to UNICEF Iran, under KIAN, which reached 17,011 children in 6,500 households in Kermanshah Province, education classes were provided for 4,655 children, 85 children living with disabilities were referred to the SWO for mental health and psychosocial support. It is set to be replicated in a further two Iranian provinces in 2023.

A joint UNESCO-UNICEF project shared UNESCO's guidelines on distance learning for teachers to ensure the continuity of effective education during COVID-19. These guidelines were delivered to 380 teachers in Iran through a mixture of online and offline courses taught in partnership with Kharazmi University in 2022. The training built the teachers' ICT skills, capacity to facilitate distance learning, and understanding of how to effectively assess student learning.

### **OUTCOME 3.2. FOOD SECURITY, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, AND IMPROVED NUTRITION**

---

Iran's food system became more resilient in 2022 through an FAO-led programme designed to upgrade the Plant Protection Organization's desert locust centre's facilities and capacity to survey, control, and manage desert locust populations in agricultural hotspots. The programme, which covers more than 1 million hectares in 11 locust-affected provinces in Iran, also contributed to greater regional resilience to pestilence through decreasing the population of desert locusts that breed in southern provinces of Iran in the spring and then migrate to neighbouring countries, including Pakistan and India.

The International Trade Centre (ITC) has enhanced access of a wide audience to knowledge on sustainable organic agriculture by creating inclusive training material. This free online course, now known as Introduction to Organic Farming, is available in Farsi and has been integrated into an ITC SME Trade Academy online learning platform.

### **OUTCOME 3.3. SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION**

---

A collaboration between UN-Habitat, the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, and other stakeholders led to the formulation of the National Urban Policy and Smart City Strategy document in 2022. The document will serve as a tool for the development of more resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements in Iran, focusing on improving urban efficiency, promoting economic growth in cities and use of smart technologies and green infrastructure.

### **OUTCOME 3.4. NATURAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

---

Iran suffered several disasters in 2022, including flooding and landslides that caused scores of deaths in July. To build increased resilience against future disasters, UNDP worked with national stakeholders to develop four technical standards and models for post-disaster transitional shelters for affected persons. UNDP also supported the implementation of renewable energy schemes (108 kWp Solar PV) in eight disaster response centres under the Tehran Disaster Mitigation and Management Organization.

To enhance disaster risk reduction for children with disabilities and special needs, the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering & Seismology, UNESCO, and UNICEF jointly developed two guidelines on disaster preparation for children with hearing impairments and children with autism spectrum disorders. Meanwhile, FAO technical analysis contributed to the development of a large-scale programme to improve the resilience to sand and dust storms of agriculture-dependent communities.

### **OUTCOME 3.5. SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT**

---

To promote sustainable employment, the International Trade Centre (ITC) organised initiatives to enhance the business capacity and international expansion of Iranian SMEs and Youth Entrepreneurs. According to UN Iran, a capacity-building and market exposure programme was conducted for Iranian SMEs aiming to establish a lasting business relationship and trigger international growth with Germany-based enterprises in 2022. Participants from various sectors received business-to-business commerce, trade fair visits, and business-practice-oriented trainings advancing expertise and building their opportunities with Germany-based enterprises. ITC also provided training, coaching, and mentorship support to more than 500 young entrepreneurs and their SMEs through both on-site training sessions and ITC e-learning courses tailored to the needs of Iranian entrepreneurs.

FAO's support for the establishment and operation of 320 rural micro-credit funds, benefiting 220 businesses, including 130 women-led businesses, helped, according to FAO Iran, improve the livelihoods of 950 households in two pilots in Kerman and South Khorasan provinces. The micro-credit funds helped households start or expand their businesses, while alternative livelihoods provided access to resources and training to increase incomes. Meanwhile, an Innovation Challenge in Lorestan province, hosted through UNDP's Youth



Entrepreneurship Programme, linked young entrepreneurs behind twelve innovative business ideas to digital marketing and sales platforms, helping them develop their skills and expand their businesses to create jobs and generate income.

UNIDO supported the Government in promoting competitiveness and market access for local communities in Sistan and Baluchestan through a two-year programme for Iran's Fishery sector in Chabahar port. This programme supported Iran's Marine Stewardship Council in developing a roadmap towards enhancing market access and the sustainability of the yellowfin tuna value chain in Chabahar. UNIDO also facilitated the import of a Japanese longliner vessel.

In another activity, UNIDO Handicrafts project in Sistan and Baluchestan province supported local communities to upgrade Baluchi Embroidery and discover new markets. According to UNIDO Iran, a series of technical trainings provided in partnership with Tehran University of Art in Zahedan, Iranshahr and Chabahar cities enhanced skills in cloth sewing, digital marketing, and process management, resulting in improved job opportunities and livelihoods for 250 participants. Additionally, more than 60 entrepreneurs received new equipment, and two industrial lines for packaging were provided to increase production capacity for handicraft producers in these three cities.

### OUTCOME 3.6. POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2022, Iran's first ever National Time Transfer Account (NTTA) report was carried out jointly by national and UNFPA experts to produce an NTTA profile of Iran. The NTTA is an effective tool to analyse the impact of demographic changes on the gendered and intergenerational economies, offering a variety of options and solutions to offset or capitalize on the impacts of a rapidly aging population.

Technical support from UNFPA, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in the form of a series of workshops, webinars and South-South and Triangular exchanges also equipped officials from the Statistical Center of Iran with the knowledge and skills to transition from a traditional census based on a nationwide survey of households, to a register-based census. According to the Statistical Centre of Iran, the transition from a traditional to a register-based census in 2026 will reduce census costs by 80%.

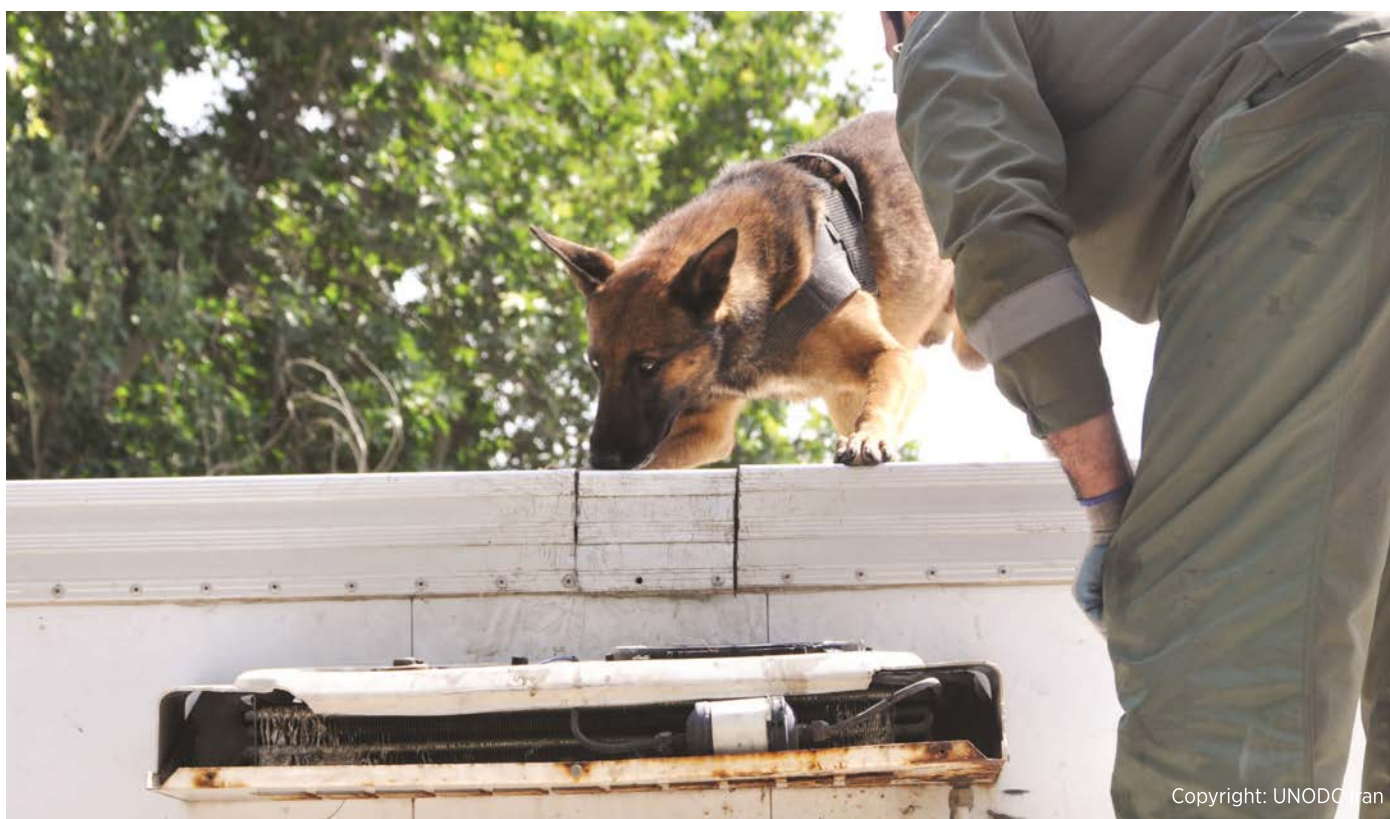
Finally, A number of technical workshops were held through the support of UNFPA in Kerman, Gilan, Isfahan, and Tehran to help the State Welfare Organization and municipalities get more familiar with the working standards, indicators, and models of age-friendly environments.

### OUTCOME 3.7. SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

UNESCO-led trainings help build Iran's capacity to conserve and promote sustainable tourism products at the national and international level. The trainings increased the aptitude of 40 experts, tour guides, and site managers at Iranian world and national cultural heritage sites in promoting Iran's intangible cultural heritage and ensuring its preservation for future generations.



# DRUG CONTROL



Copyright: UNODC Iran

**CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES: UNODC, UNICEF, WHO****SUPPORTED****ALIGNMENT WITH SIXTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 18,28, 29, 78, 80, 101, 105, 106, 113, 116****OUTCOME 4.1. DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT**  
**OUTCOME 4.2. DRUG SUPPLY REDUCTION**

With the two countries sharing a 921-km border, the continued cultivation and production of illicit drugs in Afghanistan is a source of major concern in Iran, as well as in the wider region and international community. According to the 2022 World Drug Report, Iran has successfully managed 92% of the world's opium seizures, 59% of the world's morphine and 27% of heroine seizures in 2016-2020, with the vast majority of those narcotics produced in Afghanistan.

However, Iran's drug detention success comes with a high cost, including the loss of life and injuries among law enforcement personnel by drug traffickers, an increase in domestic drug use linked to the transmission of HIV and other blood-borne diseases, and high rates of imprisonment and hence addressing the related drug use and HIV warrant sustained support from the international community and the United Nations.

In 2022, the United Nations in Iran continued to support Government efforts to implement evidence-based approaches to drug use prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and social integration, with a special emphasis on high-risk groups. The UN also retains focus on strengthening national capacities on drug control, interdiction, and seizures. The operational capacity of the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police was enhanced in 2022 through specialized training on modern methods of drug trafficking control for 60 officers. The UN also supported the procurement of six drug trace detectors and five drug detecting dogs, with training planned for sniffer dog handlers in 2023.

Moreover, WHO's development of an operational plan for health undersecretaries at the MoHME enhanced planning for the prevention and treatment of drug use among children and adolescents. The plan was developed based on a situational rapid review analysis, which in turn utilised earlier developed national strategic programme tools. The UN also developed and pilot-tested eight new protocols for children and adolescents to address the lack of standard and specialized treatment plans for young people with drug use disorders in



Khorasan Razavi, Sistan and Baluchestan, Tehran, Mazandaran, and Kermanshah provinces. Five advanced tools for conducting pre- and post-intervention surveys were developed with the UN support.

To break the negative cycle of families reproducing negative coping patterns, UNODC in Iran has since 2019 piloted a global initiative called the Strong Families programme (SF) focusing on supporting caregivers during stressful situations. In 2022, it was expanded nationwide through a “training of trainers” approach for 63 prospective trainers from primary health care centres in Hormozgan, Kerman, Khorasan Razavi, Khuzestan, Lorestan, Sistan and Baluchestan and Tehran provinces. Following WHO’s positive evaluation of an earlier prevention family programme piloted by UNODC, the Strengthening Families Programme has been taken up by MoHME for inclusion in the national drug prevention programmes.

In 2022, support for women with a history of substance abuse included supplying sewing machines and bakery equipment to Women’s Empowerment Centers in Tehran and Kerman, which supported the social reintegration and livelihoods of women. In collaboration with the Iranian Drug Control Headquarters, the UN also procured wheelchairs for persons with disabilities, childcare supplies, medical examination supplies, HIV rapid tests, COVID-19 rapid tests, and other equipment to support the work of a CSO that provides services and shelter to women in vulnerable situations and their children in southern Tehran. According to UNODC Iran, a further 250 women with drug use disorders benefited from treatment due to UN-led trainings for 88 staff at three drug treatment and harm reduction centres in Tehran and Alborz provinces. Meanwhile, the implementation of a community-based model for the prevention of social harm and drug use disorders at Adolescent Girls’ Empowerment and Wellbeing Centres in Kermanshah and Khorasan Razavi reduced drug abuse risk factors for 120 adolescent girls in vulnerable situations.

Based on the needs assessment of young inmates with drug use disorders, UNODC in 2022 developed a road map for conducting a pilot of psychosocial support for young inmates at the Juvenile Correction and Rehabilitation Centres (JCRC). A training plan and training materials at the two pilot centres in Isfahan and Shiraz provinces were developed for use in 2023. To date, the training of 120 social workers from JCRCs in 31 provinces on counselling, drug prevention education, and positive parenting implemented by UNICEF has benefited 250 adolescents in need, facilitating their reintegration into society.



Copyright: UNIC Tehran | UNODC Strong Families Programme, 2022

## 2.3. SUPPORT TO MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, UNDOCUMENTED PERSONS AND HOST COMMUNITIES

The volatile situation in Afghanistan, and the Taliban's takeover in August 2021, continues to impact refugees and their host communities in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Efforts to assist the Government in supporting newly arrived Afghans are channelled through the Refugee Response Plan (RRP), which provided direct assistance to 1,378,783 people in 2022. The plan takes an area-based approach to support the Government, prioritising support to public services, particularly health and education, in areas of high need, where the vulnerabilities of refugees and host communities intersect. Overall, it is estimated that in 2022 2,053,639 people have indirectly benefitted from such interventions, ranging from school construction to assistance to health facilities.

In accordance with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and as outlined in the Solutions Strategy for Refugees (SSAR), tangible international burden-sharing remains critical in enabling the Government of Iran to maintain its generous support to Afghans who have newly arrived and those who have been residing in Iran for up to four decades. Without sustained international support, the scale and scope of vulnerabilities among Afghans living in Iran are likely to increase and become more entrenched.

### REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (RRP)

In 2022, UNHCR and partners - WFP, WHO UNICEF, IOM, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNODC, Relief International (RI), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and INTERSOS – developed a Refugee Response Plan (RRP), which provides a comprehensive strategy to ease the pressure on host communities and enhance refugee self-reliance in line with the principles of burden- and responsibility-sharing of the GCR adopted by UN General Assembly in 2018.

Through the 2022 RRP and according to the UN in Iran, partners mobilised a combined US\$125 million—or 48% of the RRP's total funding requirement—to meet the needs of Afghans and host communities in vulnerable situations. As per the RRP's strategic objectives, this funding prioritised support to the Government's inclusive policies, targeted assistance to the most vulnerable, ongoing investment in emergency preparedness and support to intervention that will provide assistance for Afghans in Iran.

Support for education and health services were among the key priorities of the 2022 RRP, in line with efforts to promote the continuation of access to social services, the Islamic Republic of Iran has generously extended to Afghans in Iran for over four decades. By the end of 2022, according to UN data, RRP partners had supported the construction of 17 schools and the rehabilitation of a further 37 schools, increasing the capacity of the education system to absorb a reported additional 210,000 Afghan refugee and undocumented children who have enrolled in schools in Iran since August 2021. Partners also supported the construction or rehabilitation of 15 health facilities, while also providing a combination of in-kind and financial support to a further 185 health facilities. Adopting an area-based approach, the RRP aims to enhance service provision in communities with high concentrations of Afghans, where the needs of Afghans and Iranian host communities intersect.

Although needs continue to outstrip capacity and resources, partners under the RRP are reaching the most vulnerable people through a combination of cash and in-kind assistance, as well as tailored services. This includes conditional cash transfers that help populations in vulnerable situations overcome financial barriers that inhibit access to services. At the same time, some 30,000 Afghan refugees in settlements in Iran continue to receive support through monthly hybrid food assistance packages, comprising cash and food rations. Outside of settlements, efforts are ongoing to provide targeted assistance to the most vulnerable, including the vast majority of newly arrived Afghans since August 2021. As of late 2022, according to UN data, an estimated 32,000 people in need had received unconditional multi-purpose cash assistance to meet their basic needs.

### VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION, RESETTLEMENT AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION OPERATIONS

As in 2021, opportunities for durable solutions to the impediments Afghan refugees in Iran face remained limited in 2022. The ongoing volatility in Afghanistan restricted the number of people voluntarily returning to only 372, including students, during 2022. The UN continues to assist those who choose to return, while also working to provide Afghans with portable skills that will enable them to capitalise on opportunities when the situation becomes conducive.

Efforts to support the resettlement of the most vulnerable Afghan refugees to third countries yielded more progress in 2022. During 2022, the UNHCR submitted 3,125 individuals for resettlement consideration to third countries. By the end of 2022, UNHCR had received over 600 acceptances among them 153 individuals were departed via resettlement process. Meanwhile, IOM facilitated the resettlement and migration processes for 613 refugees (336 female and 277 male) in destination countries. IOM's support during the resettlement and migration process included interview assistance, cultural orientations, pre-migration health examinations and health assessments, predeparture activities and movement, and ticketing support. Refugees who received assistance came from populations in vulnerable situations. According to IOM Iran, over 1,612 refugees and migrants destined for 6 countries received predeparture support from IOM in the form of health assessments, including referrals to laboratories and radiology centres for TB screening, vaccinations, and PCR testing. According to IOM Iran, IOM also facilitated the orderly, safe, and responsible return of 221 Iranian migrants living abroad who decided to return to their country of origin. Some 175 men and 46 women returnees received administrative, logistical, and financial support, including reintegration assistance, from IOM, designed to sustainably enhance their socioeconomic wellbeing.



# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022

Overall, it is estimated that more than 1,378,783 people were direct recipients of assistance from international aid organizations, including UN agencies and international NGOs, working under the 2022 RRP. This includes the following:



OVERALL HYBRID FOOD ASSISTANCE COMPRISING CASH, VOUCHERS, AND IN-KIND FOOD RATIONS FOR OVER 32,000 UNIQUE BENEFICIARIES – LARGELY IN REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS – THROUGH SUSTAINED MONTHLY SUPPORT. THE TOTAL INDIVIDUAL RECIPIENTS OF MENTIONED ASSISTANCES IS MUCH HIGHER (SOME 472,000) AS REPEATED RESPONSES DELIVERED AT REGULAR INTERVALS TO THE SAME BENEFICIARIES.



IN 2022, RRP PARTNERS SUPPORTED THE CONSTRUCTION OR REHABILITATION OF 15 HEALTH FACILITIES. RRP HEALTH SECTOR PARTNERS ALSO SUPPORTED 185 HEALTH FACILITIES THROUGH A COMBINATION OF MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.



OVER 1,200 PEOPLE BENEFITTED FROM INCLUSION IN INCOME GENERATION AND LIVELIHOOD BUILDING PROJECTS. OVER 13,000 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN VOCATIONAL, TECHNICAL, AND BUSINESS SKILLS TRAINING, AND INCOME GENERATION WORKSHOPS.



SOME 80,000 AFGHANS RECEIVED IN-PERSON OR REMOTE COUNSELLING ON A RANGE OF ISSUES, INCLUDING ACCESS TO ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES AS WELL AS ON ACCESS TO DOCUMENTATION / INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION. SOME 1,800 PEOPLE RECEIVED PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT COUNSELLING. APPROXIMATELY 3,125 VULNERABLE AFGHANS WERE SUBMITTED FOR RESETTLEMENT. APPROXIMATELY 750 GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) SURVIVORS BENEFITED FROM SPECIALIZED SERVICES PROVIDED INSIDE AND OUTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRES.



RRP EDUCATION SECTOR PARTNERS CONSTRUCTED/ ARE CONSTRUCTING 17 SCHOOLS IN 2022 AND REHABILITATED A FURTHER 37.



SOME 16,000 PEOPLE RECEIVED IN-KIND NFI ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING CORE-RELIEF ITEM (CRI) KITS AND DEDICATED WINTERIZATION KITS.



IN 2022, RRP PARTNER AGENCIES CONTINUED SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SETTLEMENTS TO HOST REFUGEES. IN THE NIATAK SETTLEMENT IN SISTAN AND BALUCHESTAN PROVINCE OVER 400 EMERGENCY SHELTERS HAVE BEEN BUILT, WHILE WORK ON 136 TRANSITIONAL SHELTERS, COMMUNAL BUILDINGS, POWER, ROAD, WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IS ONGOING. WORK IS ALSO ONGOING ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WATER FEEDER LINE, AS WELL AS A WATER RESERVOIR, A PUMPING STATION, AND WATER AND SEWAGE NETWORK IN ONE ZONE OF THE SETTLEMENT. THROUGH INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION, RRP PARTNERS ARE SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION AND UPGRADATION OF THE TORBAT-E-JAM SETTLEMENT IN KHORASAN RAZAVI PROVINCE: 300 SHELTER UNITS HAVE BEEN RENOVATED, 140 ADDITIONAL SHELTER UNITS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO ACCOMMODATE GROWING POPULATION NEEDS. WORK IS ONGOING ON THE REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT OF THE WATER DISTRIBUTION NETWORK.

## 2.4. SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, as in other countries, the United Nations works in close cooperation with the Government to advance national development priorities, accelerate sustainable development, and respond to sudden onset emergencies and threats such as the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters. In 2022, UN agencies engaged in an array of strategic partnerships with the Government of the I.R of Iran, international development partners, and non-governmental organisations including universities and private sector companies that advanced innovative approaches towards sustainable development and responded to Iran's most pressing challenges.

### INNOVATIVE DIGITAL TOOLS ENABLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN COVID-19 HIT SECTORS

The unilateral sanctions, the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent economic downturn have exacerbated Iran's unemployment rate, especially affecting young people and populations in vulnerable situations. Pioneering approaches to job creation and facilitating the entry, including for people with disabilities, is core to the UN's strategy of promoting inclusive economic growth and decent work for all in Iran. One example of how the UN cooperates with the Government on sustainable livelihoods is UNIDO's collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare on the country's virtual reality platform. Launched in March 2022, Didaro allows content creators to livestream cultural and sports events to virtual reality headsets. This technology aims to empower young people and stimulate start-ups in fields like arts and sports, which have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It also provides access to people with disabilities who may not be able to attend events in person. UNIDO plans to develop training programmes using virtual reality, particularly in sectors like agro-industries.



Poster of the unveiling ceremony for the Didaro virtual reality platform  
Copyright: UNIDO Iran | 2022

### TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION LEADS TO BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR ALL

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of multilateral and transboundary approaches to public health, particularly among countries that share borders and migratory populations. One of the ways the UN fosters transboundary partnerships is through the WHO's close collaboration with the G5, which since 2005 has brought together delegates from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan—with WHO as the fifth partner—to explore opportunities for cooperation on health in a subregion of 300 million people. The G5 was reinvigorated in September 2022 when Iran's Ministry of Health and Medical Education, in its capacity as Secretariat and with the support of WHO, hosted a high-level expert meeting on health cooperation in Tehran which discussed opportunities to expand collaboration on primary health care, communicable diseases, and safeguarding the health of those attending mass gatherings. Among other measures, they resolved to strengthen integrated disease surveillance to detect outbreaks among G5 member states and establish outbreak preparedness and response capacity at common points of entry. They also agreed to standardise health provisions for pilgrims and religious mass gatherings and to harmonise risk communications campaigns on communicable diseases.



G5 High-Level Expert Meeting on Health Cooperation- September 2022  
Copyright: WHO Iran | 2022



## PARTNERSHIPS FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND DIGITAL INCLUSION

UNDP Iran is committed to advancing digital solutions that empower people and help protect the planet. In line with that aim, large private sector businesses can play a key role in helping small-scale producers access digital markets. In 2022, UNDP in collaboration with the Department of Environment joined forces with the Iranian e-commerce platform Digikala under the auspices of the long-standing Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Programme (CIWP) on a project to create job opportunities and economic advancement through digital inclusion. The “Green & Digital” pilot project aimed to boost the livelihoods of local producers living near Lake Urmia—one of around 34 wetlands under the broader conservation initiative—by diversifying their customer base while introducing new fair trade and green practices to consumers. Employing an inclusive approach resulted in bringing together the relevant actors in the area, such as local authorities, mobile operators, and private sector logistics, e.g., rural post offices and national digital marketplaces to build a partnership to promote thriving local digital ecosystems in the resilient economy.



Copyright: UNDP Iran | A local woman producer is packaging products to be sent to customers via Digikala (one of the main country’s digital marketplaces), 2022

## A TRIPARTITE PARTNERSHIP LINKS SUSTAINABLE OCEANS WITH SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Protecting our oceans, encouraging people to reduce their use of polluting plastics, are all issues that require a whole-of-society approach. A tripartite partnership in 2022 between the UN in Iran, the World Food Programme, the UN Development Programme and Iranian retail giant Hyperstar—a UNDP partner—exemplifies the way the UN attempts to move the needle on sustainable development. In July 2022, a Hyperstar branch in Tehran hosted an awareness-raising activity, distributing thousands of cotton tote bags to shoppers. Part of a broader UN communications campaign to encourage behavioural change towards protecting Life Below Water, the tote bags, crafted by 50 Afghan refugee women at a WFP-equipped tailoring workshop in Fars’ Sarvestan settlement, also demonstrate how the UN’s development work and humanitarian response can go hand-in-hand.

## SUPPORTING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CHALLENGES

Supporting innovative solutions is at the heart of UNICEF’s cooperation with Iran’s Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy and the Pardis Technology Park (PTP). In 2022, UNICEF Iran in cooperation with the PTP launched the Second Innovation Challenge to curate innovative solutions that address the most pressing challenges facing children and young people in Iran across three priority areas of Learning and Play, Health and Protection, and Social Support Services. Contest winners announced in December 2022 include a Virtual Reality Artificial Intelligence-driven solution for the treatment of Amblyopia, or Lazy eye; a narrative-based theme park that offers children the opportunity to learn about AI and robotics; and a mobile school that provides services such as education, health, and psychosocial support to children in vulnerable situations.



Copyright: UNICEF Iran, Arsam Robotics Co., Robokidz | Arsoo, a social robot that interacts with children, alongside a set of interactive games inside Robokidz, 2022

## 2.5. RESULTS OF UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

### NEW UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE I.R. OF IRAN (2023-2027) AND COUNTRY PROGRAMMES OF THE UN AGENCIES

In 2022, the Government of the I.R. of Iran and the UN System in Iran developed a new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), representing the most important planning and implementation instrument for country-level UN development activities in line with national development priorities and the UN Reform. The framework developed through a collaborative, inclusive, and intensive process that included wide-ranging consultations with relevant national partners on the country's development trajectory, will serve as the basis for coordinated United Nations support to evolving and emerging Government priorities on sustainable development for the period of 2023 to 2027.

#### DONOR COORDINATION

Throughout 2022, the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) continued to lead the localisation of the UN Reform through meetings with donors that were instrumental in mobilising support for the joint development of the new UNSDCF with the Government of Iran, including securing the support of Executive Board members who endorsed its funds and programmes. The UN Country Team also leveraged its convening power to maximise regional and international assets through South-South and Triangular cooperation, ensuring that Iran benefits from global expertise, best practices, and resources. The UN Country Team continues to demonstrate its commitment to multilateralism to exchange expertise and coordinate support efforts with the international community.

#### JOINT OPERATIONS

In 2022, the UNCT in Iran continued its collaboration towards operating as One UN under the framework of the Business Operations Strategy (2020-2025), across finance, human resources, procurement, ICT, administration and logistics service lines. As at the end of 2022, this collaboration has led to cost savings of **US\$ 660,188** through joint helpdesk services in three common premises, joint long-term agreements (LTAs) for goods and services, such as ambulances, customs clearance, security, travel, and internet. The collaboration further extended to common services, including gender and disability-sensitive procurement, environmentally sustainable and accessible UN common premises, and digital accessibility.

#### JOINT ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

The UN Information Centre continues to coordinate joint outreach and strategic communications campaigns across the UN Communications Group (UNCG), which brings together the communications focal points of all resident UN agencies. In 2022, the UNCG - strengthened through the allotment of increased personnel and financial resources - contributed to the development of a robust UNCT Communications Strategy, which is expected to pave the way for broader collaboration in communications related to the UNSDCF 2023-2027. Training on thematic issues such as disability inclusion helped improve strategic messaging to ensure no one is left behind.



Copyright: UN Iran | Signing of the  
UNSDCF for the I.R.Iran 2023-2027



## 2.6. EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The UNCT remains a steadfast platform for collaboration, advocacy, and multilateralism, maintaining a strong record of joint work and cooperation throughout 2022, including through the Technical Assistance Package, Socio-Economic Response Plan, and the COVAX global vaccination mechanism. However, challenges to the UNCT's effectiveness in 2022 included a changing operational environment and limited financial resources and partnership opportunities.

Adjustments the UNCT will make to meet these challenges in 2023 include better coordination at the programme strategy level, stronger sequencing to achieve priority objectives, more flexible approaches to programme delivery that consider changing local realities and strengthened monitoring and evaluation procedures. The UN's engagement in Iran, a lower Middle-Income Country as per the World Bank's revised classification in 2022, could be enhanced through finding entry points amid current in-country developments, especially on support going beyond simple projects. The UNCT should also progress specific thematic areas on an issue-by-issue basis.

The UNCT expanding its cooperations would facilitate closer programmatic coordination, more integrated and holistic programme delivery, and prevent resources from having to be allocated away from project delivery. Mechanisms of the UN Reform such as next-generation Results Groups have helped the UNCT reduce duplication and enhance teamwork across core programmes. Results Groups also serve as think-tanks that inform emerging discussions and help generate flagship joint programmes.

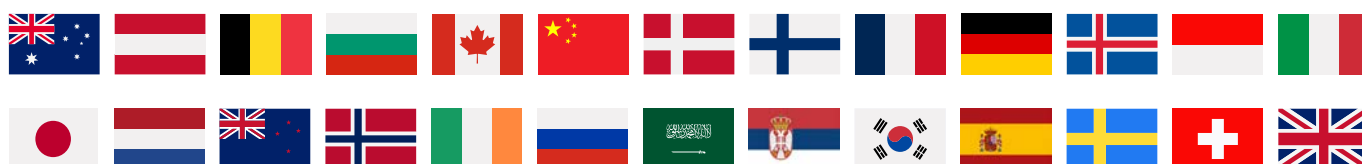
The UNCT will redouble efforts towards being a technology and knowledge provider as well as resource provider, using the UN's comparative advantages, including its convening power and ability to act as One UN.

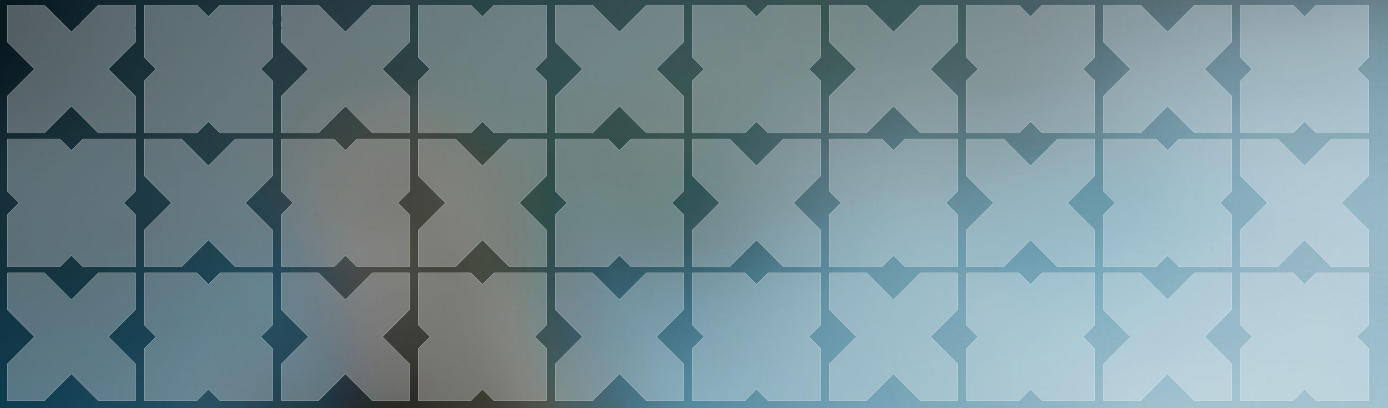
## 2.7. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Overall, the overall expenditures in 2022 were 5.3 percent less than in 2021. The largest portion of resources was spent on Humanitarian response, followed by Health and Resilient economy pillars. Expenditure on Humanitarian response in 2022 has increased by 37.2 percent compared to last year.

## DONORS

UNCT in Iran worked closely with a range of partners, including the European Union, Member States, pooled and vertical funds, international financial institutions, and other public and private partners.





Copyright : UNDP Iran | Bosra ab-bandaan 2022

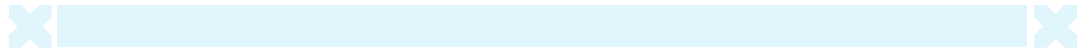






CHAPTER 3 | **UNCT KEY FOCUS  
FOR NEXT YEAR**





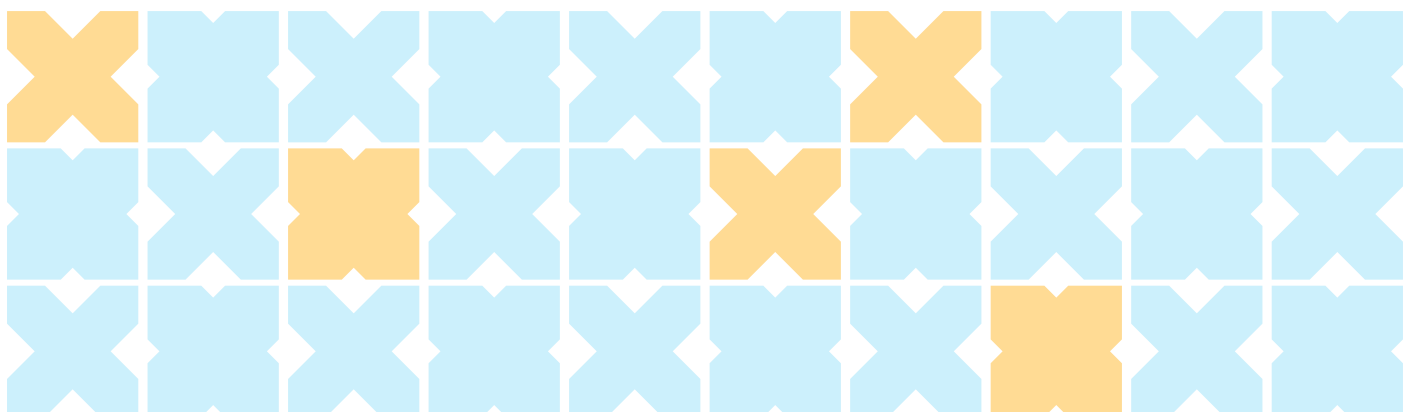
The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Iran's focus for 2023 will be the provision of support to the Government of Iran as it delivers on the priorities and general policies set forth in the Islamic Republic's 7<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Development Plan. Those priorities include employment generation, livelihood support, and social protection, along with related efforts to improve health, disaster risk reduction, drug control and environmental sustainability.

To ensure an appropriate recovery path, the UNCT will initiate the strategic and coordinated delivery of the commitments articulated in the new UNSDCF (2023-2027), in alignment with national development and humanitarian priorities.

Building on best practices in Iran and internationally over the past decade, UNSDCF Results Groups- under the oversight and guidance of the UNSDCF High Level Steering Committee will develop joint programmes that advance efficient, coordinated, and agile solutions for Iran's socio-economic needs and priorities. These solutions will include conducting pilot programmes, leveraging the UN's international and national technical assistance capacities, and fostering South-South co-operation and knowledge exchanges.

The UNCT will support new financing modalities, including the One UN Impact Fund, to deliver better developmental results and more impactful UN programmes and projects, which promote cross-thematic collaborations across the humanitarian-development nexus. Meanwhile, new integrated approaches to sustainable development that connect livelihoods, health, knowledge, and eco-systems contribute towards national efforts to improve productivity and develop human capital.

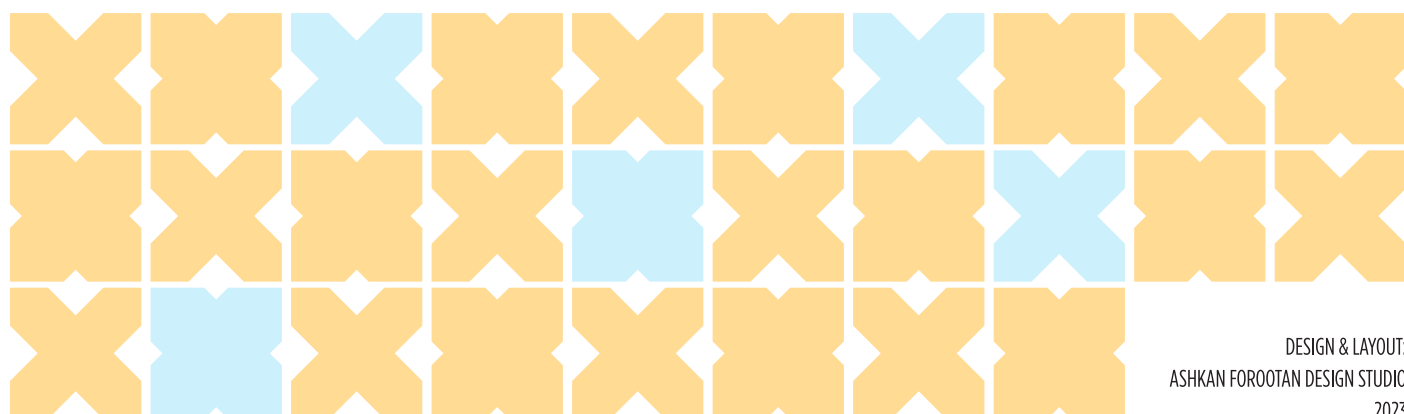
The UNCT will continue providing support on disaster preparedness systems and emergency response in Iran, including through ensuring complementarity of humanitarian and development initiatives. This support shall be aligned with programmes agreed with the Government. The multilateralism-based convening and partnership-building role of the UNCT will continue in 2023, including through strategic and technical dialogue between the UNCT and UNSDCF High Level Steering Committee partners, via the UN-International Community Open Working Group platform. Initiatives and programmes launched under the UNSDCF 2023-2027 will be fully aligned with Iran's 7<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Development Plan 2023-2027. In the first year of the new UNSDCF's implementation, the UNCT looks forward to working with the Government and partners in the spirit of cooperation and mutual trust.

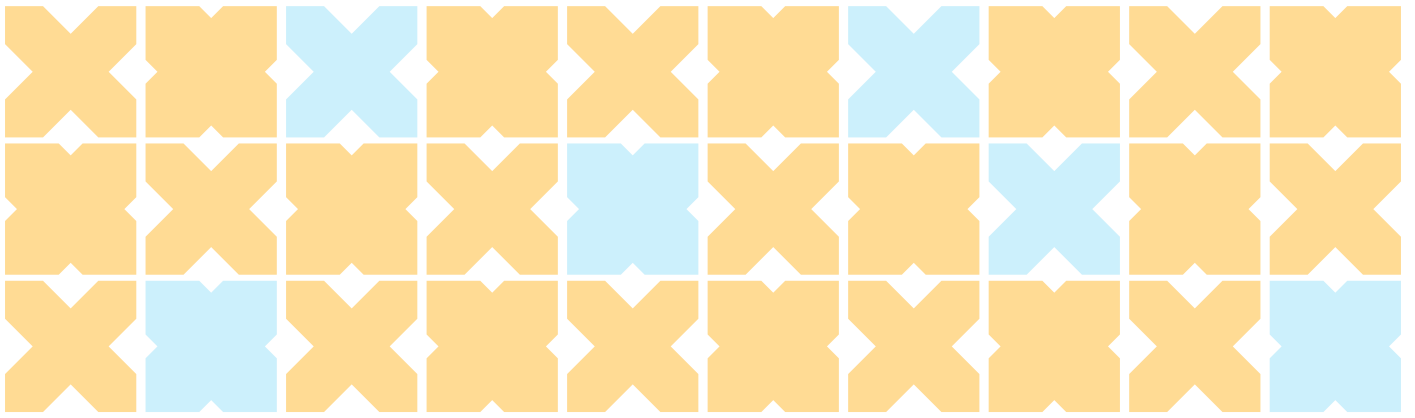




# LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>AIDS</b>	ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME
<b>ART</b>	ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY
<b>CSO</b>	CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION
<b>CWD</b>	CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
<b>DG ECHO</b>	DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID OPERATIONS
<b>DG INTPA</b>	THE DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS
<b>DOE</b>	DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
<b>EU</b>	EUROPEAN UNION
<b>FHH</b>	FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS
<b>GCF</b>	GREEN CLIMATE FUND
<b>GDP</b>	GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT
<b>HCFC</b>	HYDROCHLOROFLUOROCARBON
<b>HCP</b>	HEALTH CITY PROGRAMME
<b>HIRB</b>	HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT PACKAGE
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS/ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME
<b>IFI</b>	INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION
<b>IHR</b>	INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATION
<b>IKIA</b>	IMAM KHOMEINI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
<b>MOJA</b>	MINISTRY OF JAHAD AGRICULTURE
<b>MCLSW</b>	MINISTRY OF COOPERATIVES, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE
<b>MFA</b>	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
<b>MOHME</b>	MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL EDUCATION
<b>MOI</b>	MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
<b>NCD</b>	NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE
<b>NGO</b>	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
<b>ODS</b>	OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES
<b>PHC</b>	PRIMARY HEALTH CARE
<b>PLHIV</b>	PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV
<b>PMTCT</b>	PREVENTION OF MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION
<b>PPE</b>	PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
<b>PWD</b>	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
<b>RCCE</b>	RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
<b>RCO</b>	OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR
<b>SCI</b>	STATISTICAL CENTER OF IRAN
<b>SME</b>	SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE
<b>SRTC</b>	STATISTICAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE
<b>SSTC</b>	SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION
<b>SWO</b>	STATE WELFARE ORGANIZATION OF IRAN
<b>TB</b>	TUBERCULOSIS





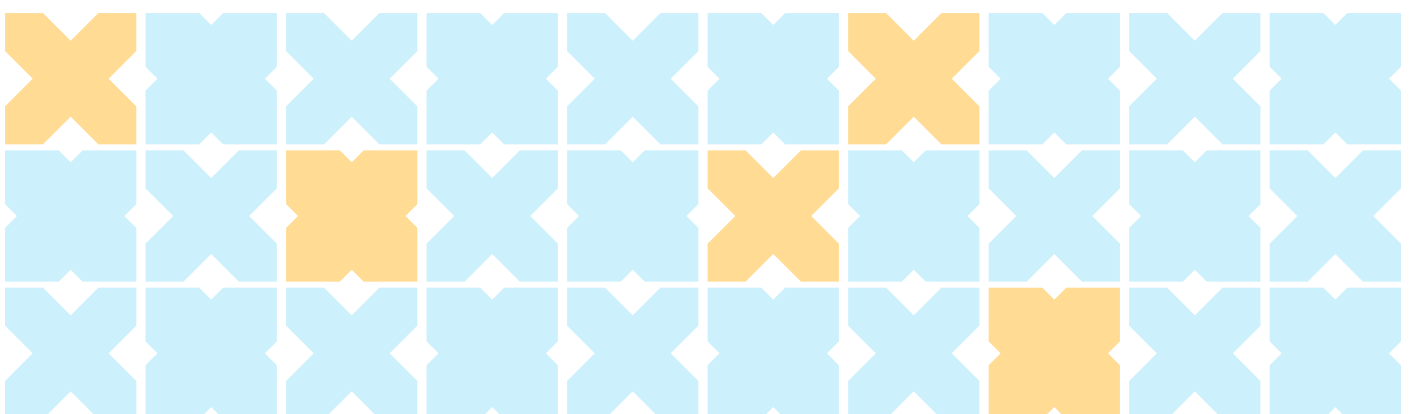
# COMPOSITION OF THE UN COUNTRY TEAM IN THE I.R. OF IRAN





## KEY NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

- *Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs*
- *Drug Control Headquarters*
- *Iranian National Commission for UNESCO*
- *Iranian Red Crescent Society*
- *Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance*
- *Ministry of Agriculture Jihad*
- *Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare*
- *Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts*
- *Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance*
- *Ministry of Education*
- *Ministry of Energy*
- *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
- *Ministry of Health and Medical Education*
- *Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade*
- *Ministry of Information and Communications Technology*
- *Ministry of Interior*
- *Ministry of Justice*
- *Ministry of Roads and Urban Development*
- *Ministry of Science, Research and Technology*
- *Ministry of Sport and Youth*
- *National Disaster Management Organization*
- *Plan and Budget Organization*
- *State Welfare Organization*
- *Statistical Center of Iran*
- *Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology*
- *Vice-Presidency for Women and Family Affairs*
- *Vice-Presidency Department of Environment*
- *Vice-Presidency for Rural Development and Deprived Areas*





**IRAN 2022** UN COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT



UNITED NATIONS  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

