

# UN COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT

## ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, 2023



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*Islamic Republic of Iran*

*July 2023*



## Message from the UN Resident Coordinator



**STEFAN PRIESNER**

UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR IN THE I.R. OF IRAN

On behalf of the UN-Iran family, I am pleased to share with you the 2023 UN Country Results Report for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The year 2023 was highly significant for the work of the UN in the country. The implementation of the overarching blueprint for UN action in Iran, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027, agreed upon between the Government of Iran and the UN in 2022, was officially launched.

Over 27 Government entities and 18 UN entities have since started working on implementing the framework. UN entities gathered in five “Results Groups” and have endeavored to develop joint workplans to address each of the UNSDCF’s thematic priorities: (a) socio-economic resilience; (b) public health; (c) environment; (d) disaster risk reduction and management; and (e) drug control.

Throughout 2023, the UN family in Iran supported the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in delivering on its development plans and in the success of critical initiatives. An example of this work was coordinating efforts with 12 UN entities worldwide to provide integrated support to the International Conference on Combatting Sand and Dust Storms, organized by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and held in Tehran on 9-10 September 2023.

Some of our other efforts in 2023 included increasing institutional capacities for effective disaster preparedness, response and recovery, enhancing access to integrated social protection services and public health management systems, integration of environment-friendly policies, management of natural resources, biodiversity conservation, and support to evidence-based drug prevention, treatment and harm reduction. We are encouraged that our projects had a concrete impact on the lives of the most vulnerable in the country, from farmers that benefited from alternative livelihoods initiatives supported by the UN to victims of natural disasters aided with rebuilt schools and houses.

Furthermore, the One UN Impact Fund was established to finance UN joint Flagship Projects. As part of this work, the multi-agency response mounted at the request of the authorities to respond to the earthquake in Khoy, north-eastern Iran, in January 2023, proved the capacity of the UN to deliver in a coordinated and synergetic way, and to address the needs of the most vulnerable, leaving “no one behind”.

Looking ahead, we are determined to work with all counterparts, focusing our efforts on innovative, integrated and results-oriented solutions to the complex and intricate development challenges of our times.

I would like to express my gratitude to our national counterparts, and to donors and development partners for their continued support. As we embark on an intense period of work in 2024 amid global and regional instability, it will take strong and trusted collaboration to deliver on the promises of the UNSDCF to the Iranian people. Thank you!

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





# UN Entities Operating in the I.R. of Iran

## UN RESIDENT ENTITIES:



## UN NON-RESIDENT ENTITIES:





## Key National Implementing Partners

- ◆ Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ)
- ◆ Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Organization (ICHTO)
- ◆ Iranian Red Crescent Society
- ◆ Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization
- ◆ Ministry of Agriculture Jihad (MAJ)
- ◆ Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare (MoCLSW)
- ◆ Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism
- ◆ Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance (MEAF)
- ◆ Ministry of Education (MoEd)
- ◆ Ministry of Energy (MoE)
- ◆ Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
- ◆ Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME)
- ◆ Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade (MIMT)
- ◆ Ministry of Interior (MoI)
- ◆ Ministry of Justice (MoJ)
- ◆ Ministry of Mines, Industry and Commerce
- ◆ Ministry of Petroleum
- ◆ Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (MRUD)
- ◆ Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT)
- ◆ Ministry of Youth and Sport
- ◆ National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO)
- ◆ Plan and Budget Organization (PBO)
- ◆ State Welfare Organization (SWO)
- ◆ Vice-Presidency Department of Environment (DoE)
- ◆ Vice-Presidency for Rural Development and Deprived Areas (RDDA)
- ◆ Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology



## Key Contributors

- ◆ Australia
- ◆ Austria
- ◆ Denmark
- ◆ France
- ◆ Germany
- ◆ Japan
- ◆ Netherlands
- ◆ Norway
- ◆ Republic of Korea
- ◆ Russian Federation
- ◆ Switzerland
- ◆ European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
- ◆ European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships
- ◆ GAVI The Vaccine Alliance
- ◆ Global Fund
- ◆ Nutrition International
- ◆ Private Sector
- ◆ Tehran Diplomatic Spouse Group
- ◆ UN Central Emergency Response Fund
- ◆ Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework



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# CHAPTER I

## ◆ KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN THE COUNTRY





In 2023, Iran became the largest receiving country in the world of refugees or of individuals in a refugee-like situation. Refugees and migrants continued to benefit from generous and inclusive policies of the Iranian Government and population.

Inflation was partially moderated by an increase in the minimum wage in the public sector. In addition, official data registered a decrease in income inequality, as reflected in a reduction of the GINI coefficient at the beginning of 2023.

The prevailing unilateral sanctions, and widespread overcompliance to them, continued to have a major impact on Iran's development policies and on UN operations in the country, in particular with respect to resource mobilisation and to the supply chain sector.

Against this background, the Iranian economic system exhibited stability and resilience. According to official data, from March to September 2023 (i.e. in the first half of Persian year 1402), Iran witnessed a 4.7% surge in GDP<sup>1</sup>, surpassing the 3% growth observed during the

corresponding period in the preceding year, largely driven by increasing fossil fuel extractions and by a growth of the industrial sector, notably industrial machineries. The unemployment rate decreased from 8.9% (December 2022) to 7.6% (December 2023)<sup>2</sup>. Even in spite of prevailing unilateral sanctions, official data highlight a 0.6% increase in imports and a substantial 23% rise in exports during the first half of the Persian year 1402 (21 March - 22 September 2023).

In its development policy, the authorities indicated the willingness to capitalise on the positive indicators in order to improve the general welfare. In this respect, the national budget of the Government of Iran for the year 2023 contains a number of corrective measures, such as provisions on social protection, healthcare access and housing construction, with the aim of safeguarding the most disadvantaged segments of the population. The budget law confirms this approach and aligns itself with key objectives of the 7<sup>th</sup> Five-year Development Plan, such as augmenting GDP growth through improving productivity, Government downsizing, structural reforms, and bolstering social protection measures.



1. CBI, [Report on developments in the real sector of Iran's economy in the second quarter and first six months of 1402](#)  
2. SCI, [The Labour Census Report, Autumn 1402](#)



# CHAPTER II

## ◆ UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN PRIORITIES





## 2.1 Overview of UNSDCF Results

2023 was a pivotal year for the UN in the Islamic Republic of Iran and marked the first year of implementing the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027. The new UNSDCF sets the strategic key principles and priorities of cooperation between the UN and Iran and is aligned with the Islamic Republic's 7<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Development Plan for 2024–2028. The collaboration envisioned in the UNSDCF is based on the fundamental principles of national

ownership and leadership to ensure full alignment of joint development operational activities carried out under the UNSDCF with the Government's development policies and priorities.

Five strategic priorities guide the work of the UN System in Iran under the new Cooperation Framework:



### Priority Area 1 Socio-Economic Resilience



### Priority Area 2 Public Health Management



### Priority Area 3 Environmental conservation, integrated natural resources management and addressing climate change challenges



### Priority Area 4 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management



### Priority Area 5 Drug Control

The UN recorded progress across all five UNSDCF outcomes through 111 programme activities implemented in 2023 in 28 out of 31 provinces of the country<sup>3</sup>. In all of the five strategic areas, the UN's contribution was delivered through capacity-building, technical support, facilitation of knowledge transfer, and sharing of the global best practices, including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

In its first year of implementation, most UNSDCF programme interventions focused on driving progress towards good health and well-being (46%), job creation, poverty reduction, social protection and socio-economic resilience (23%), environmental sustainability and climate action (22%)<sup>4</sup>. Following a 5.4 magnitude earthquake in Khoy city in West Azarbaijan province of Iran in January 2023, the UN provided integrated support to the Government ensuring the complementarity of humanitarian and development initiatives under the new Cooperation Framework.

New financing modalities, including the One UN Iran Impact Fund, established in February 2023, helped deliver better developmental results and more impactful programmes and projects. In the first UNSDCF implementation year, the UNCT spent US\$ 34 million with the highest expenditure recorded under Health (US\$ 19 million), followed by Socio-Economic Resilience (US\$ 6 million), Environment (US\$ 3,4 million), Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (US\$ 3,2 million), and Drug Control (US\$ 2,3 million).

The open platform "uninfo.org" provides additional information on programme activities in the country. Progress made under each of the five UNSDCF priority pillars is highlighted in the following sections of this chapter. Detailed disaggregation by the UNSDCF pillar can be found in the chapter "Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization".

3. All figures in this report are as of March 2024.

4. UN Sustainable Development Group Data Portal, <https://uninfo.org/location/144/programming>

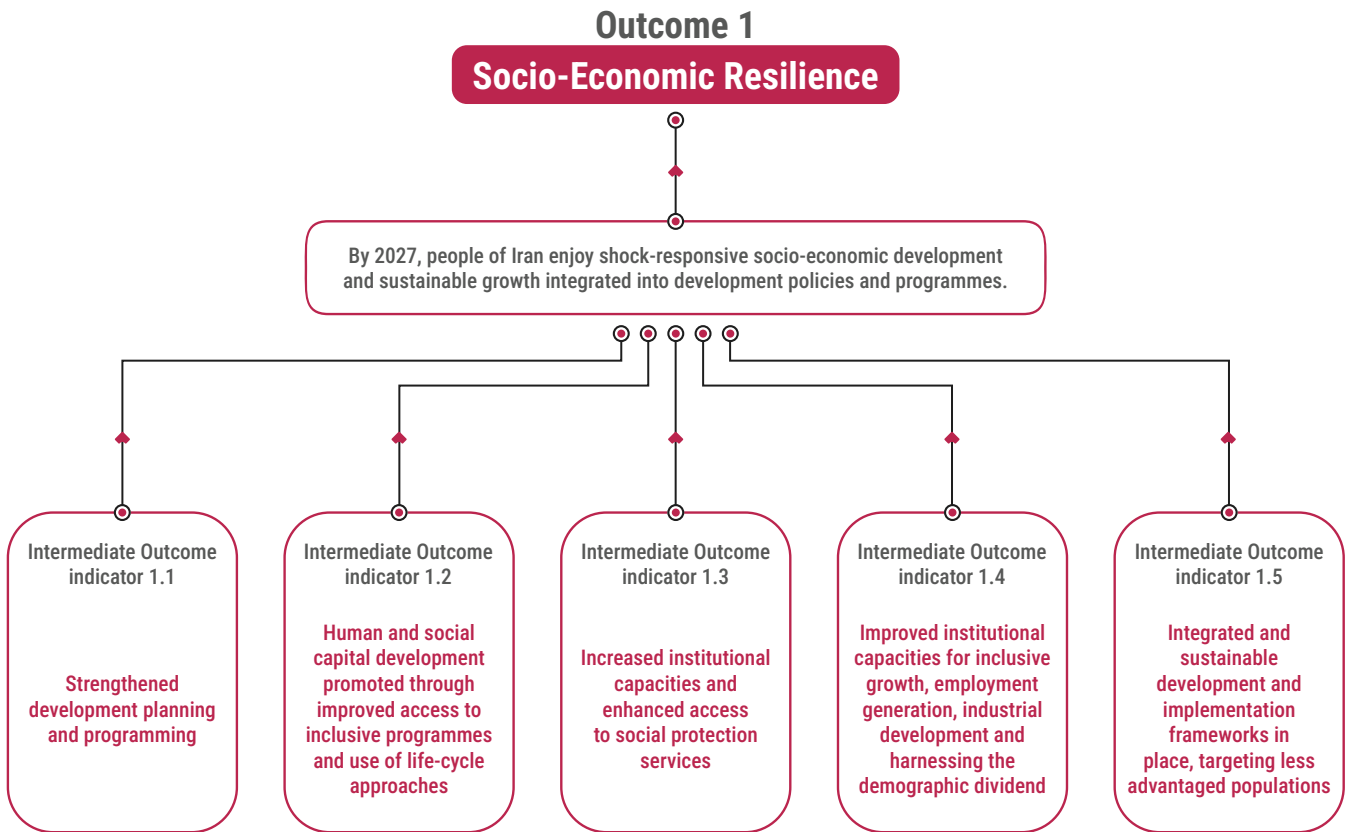




## 2.2 UNSDCF Strategic Priorities



# Outcome 1 Socio-Economic Resilience



◆ **Chaired by:**  
UNDP and UNICEF

◆ **Contributing UN agencies:**  
FAO, ITC, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, UNODC and WHO

◆ **Expenditure:**  
US\$ 5,986,699

## ► Key achievements:

 <p>Increased institutional capacities and enhanced access to social protection services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Support of 7,750 children and adolescents through “Cash plus programme” and humanitarian cash transfers</li> <li>● Enhanced resilience of 11,150 students and 3,720 parents in post-Covid period</li> </ul>
 <p>Human and social capital development promoted through improved access to inclusive programmes and use of life-cycle approaches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Capacity building of national partners on SMART targeting and selection of the most deprived</li> <li>● Capacity building of 62 social service workforce (amateur and professional)</li> <li>● Capacity building of 2500 stakeholders on trade and market access</li> <li>● Capacity building of the national stakeholders of the fishery industry on longline equipment</li> </ul>
 <p>Inclusive growth, employment generation and industrial development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises’ empowerment on digital platforms</li> <li>● Creation of 1,443 jobs (84% women) through alternative livelihood interventions supports</li> </ul>
 <p>Integrated and sustainable development, targeting less advantaged populations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Enhanced energy resilience by covering 8,538 residents in vulnerable situations</li> </ul>
 <p>Strengthened development planning and programming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Enhanced capacity of the statistics systems on transition to register-based census through training and procurement</li> <li>● Strengthened food and nutrition security through enhancing capacity of agrifood system</li> </ul>

To increase institutional capacities and enhanced access to social protection services, the UN worked to support the resilience of children and adolescents and prevented resort to negative coping measures in the aftermath of natural disasters and economic downturns. This was achieved for instance through the Cash Plus Programme in Baharestan county of the Tehran province and two humanitarian cash transfers in the earthquake-hit city of Khoy, which, collectively, reached almost 7,750 children and adolescents.

Human and social capital development was promoted through improved access to inclusive programmes and the use of life-cycle approaches. More specifically, the UN supported the key national counterparts – notably the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour, and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Justice, and the State Welfare Organization, in the identification and provision of quality social and protection services to the least advantaged children, adolescents, and families.

Green job opportunities were strengthened through support to the establishment of local community cooperatives and more than 40 agriculture microenterprises in rural and remote areas in South Khorasan, Kerman and Ardabil provinces. Moreover, more than 2500 stakeholders from the public and private sectors enhanced their knowledge on trade intelligence and market access through trainings conducted by national trainers with the support of UN.

Fishery industry stakeholders also benefited from capacity-building training on longline equipment, catch and post-catch management, and global trends in tuna fishing and fishery resource management. These efforts aimed at improving market access and quality management systems, and to achieve sustainable certifications like Marine Stewardship Council’s certification in the Chabahar yellowfin tuna fishery.

In support of inclusive growth, employment generation,



industrial development, the UN worked to support the resilience of small-scale farmers through capacity development initiatives on climate resilient and conservation agriculture models and practices, as well as agriculture technologies. More than 450 people and small-scale farmers, and 1200 technicians engaged in these initiatives, resulting in water saving, the reduction of use of chemical inputs consumption, and increased employment in West Azarbaijan, East Azarbaijan, Hamadan, Kurdistan, and Ardabil provinces.

The UN also initiated a solar power initiative in Saveh and Torbat-e Jam settlements, establishing solar power plants that enhance energy resilience in these settlements. These plants reduce strain on the national grid, lower electricity bills,

and contribute to inclusive and eco-conscious development.

With the aim to achieve enhanced development planning and programming, the UN supported the strengthening of the agrifood system, resulting in increased productivity in oilseed production and dryland rainfed agriculture. This contributed to the development and implementation of the National Rainfed Agriculture Production Acceleration Scheme and achieved 50% of the target in 2023, further enhancing the country's food security.

## ◆ Success story:

### Empowering local entrepreneurs with knowledge and global insight

For Hossein Jazini, an export strategist active in the iron ore concentrate industry, all matters related to exports were frankly confusing. “We lacked knowledge and data, especially on market potentials,” he said.

In 2023, Hossein and thousands of other Iranian entrepreneurs looking for expert guidance on exports, took part in workshops and courses supported by the International Trade Centre and the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran. Both organizations have worked together to establish a network of certified Iranian trainers that can support entrepreneurs – especially those with small and micro enterprises – with information on market access and opportunities. These trainers in turn have empowered many entrepreneurs across the country.

Currently, the country's network of trainers is at 43 individuals, poised to provide courses covering non-tariff measures, market access conditions, rules of origin and other trade-related issues.

“After the training, I have identified the opportunity to export to China,” added Hossein, “in 2022, we entered the Chinese market as there are many companies interested in our product. Now, we are also focusing on other markets, such as Pakistan and Oman.”

Since May 2022, more than 3,300 participants completed the workshops.

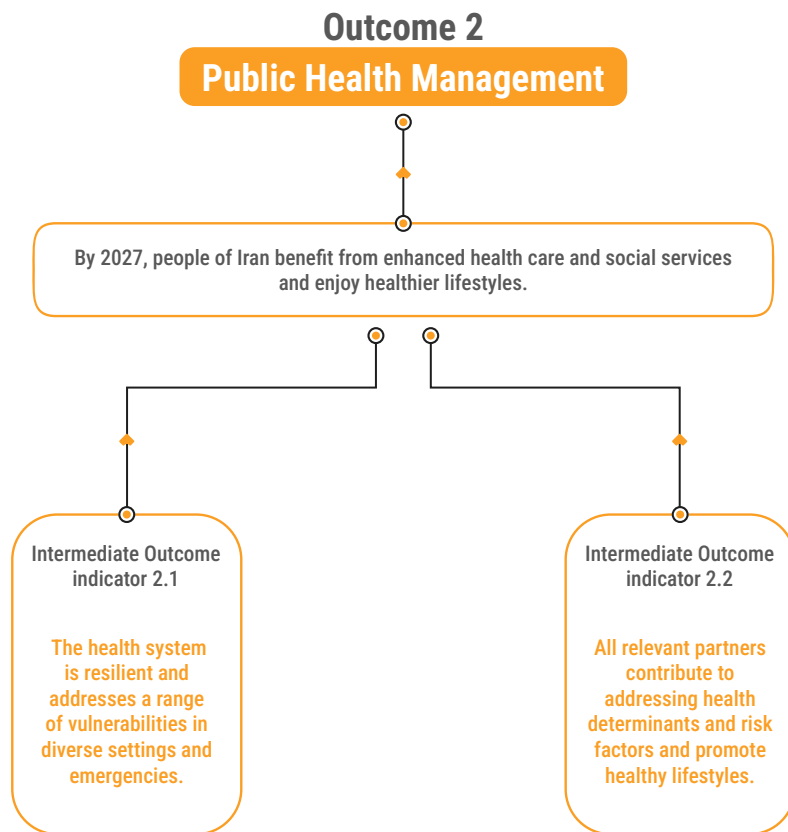


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# Outcome 2

## Public Health Management



◆ **Chaired by:**

WHO

◆ **Contributing UN agencies:**

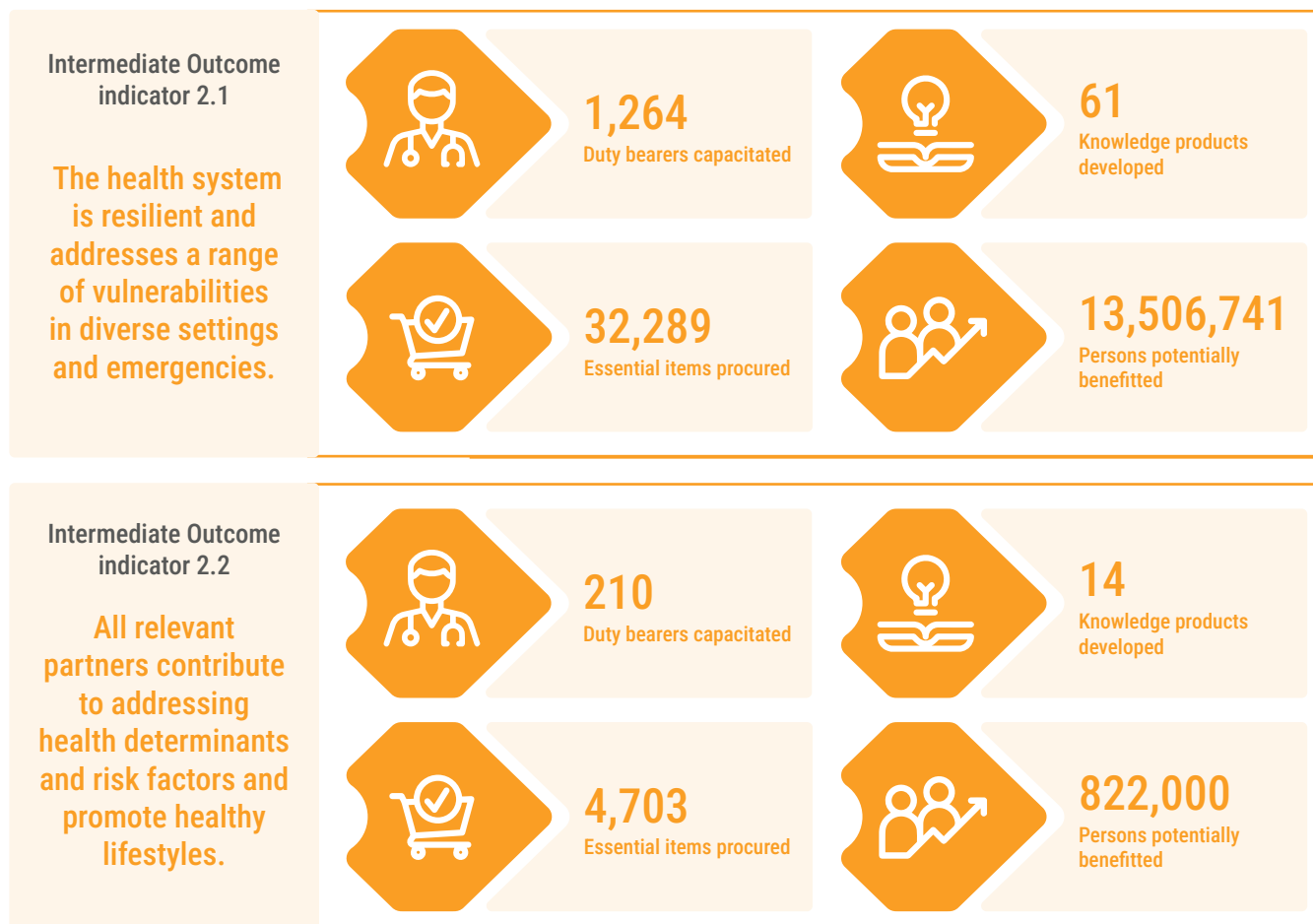
FAO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNIDO

◆ **Expenditure:**

US\$ 19,091,463



## Key achievements:



### Strengthened national health system's knowledge, skills, and technologies:

The UN-supported programmes enhanced the knowledge of healthcare providers and improved surveillance systems. The UN contributed to the strengthening of national capacities to apply standard nutrition items for the management of malnutrition through the development of protocols and guidelines. Through the implementation of the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool, the UN supported the assurance of quality and safety of manufactured vaccines. The National AIDS Programme was supported technically and financially. Additionally, the UN assisted in the evaluation of vaccination coverage for Afghan refugees to ensure optimal healthcare for this population.

### Enhanced capacities of the healthcare providers:

Over 200 healthcare providers at the Primary Health Care system (PHC) and hospital levels have enhanced their skills and capacities through a series of trainings, covering patient safety, the development of National Packages of Services for Universal Health Coverage, PHC Policy and Practice, and training packages for PHC mid-level managers. The UN has also supported the PHC system in implementing a systematic approach to address social determinants of health in six districts across different provinces in the country. Ninety managers and service providers in six universities of medical sciences and PHC networks received capacity-building support to identify, assess, and analyze

health inequities through health indicator assessments and the engagement of multiple sectors in Tehran, Isfahan, East Azarbaijan, Yazd, Golestan, and Kurdistan provinces.

### Improved access to resilient, inclusive and equitable essential health services through procurement and distribution of essential medicine, medical supplies, and equipment:

Through UN support, telemedicine was initiated at three levels of PHC, benefiting over 600 pregnant women and 500 neonates in Saravan and Sarbaz cities of Sistan and Baluchestan province. UN support has also sustained equitable childbirth services for 10,000 less advantaged families in seven provinces - Sistan and Baluchestan, Hormozgan, Kohgiluyeh and Buyer Ahmad, Fars, East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Torba-e-Jam, Jiroft. Maternal health equipment was delivered to 23 maternity wards in Zahedan and Iranshahr of Sistan and Baluchestan province, and 19 medical universities. Additionally, 40 women's centers and 226 voluntary counseling and testing centers are now equipped with essential commodities and HIV diagnostic kits. Vitamin A deficiency was prevented and treated in 1,988,250 children under five in 15 provinces. The total population of 9,548,423, including 685,465 children under five, benefited from eight walk-in cold rooms in Isfahan, Hormozgan, Sistan and Baluchestan, East and West Azarbaijan, Razavi Khorasan, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari. Furthermore, 728,000 people benefited from the procurement of refrigerators

and refrigerator vehicles, resulting in an improved capacity for vaccine transfer by 27%. The UN also supported the Government in conducting tuberculosis active case finding through the screening of 349,977 people. Access to medical imaging and diagnostic facilities was improved for 14,200,000 people in five provinces - Fars, Kerman, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Khuzestan, and Semnan through installation of the magnetic resonance imaging services.

### **Strengthened capacity of national partners in addressing health determinants and risk factors and promoting healthier lifestyles:**

Through the “Healthy Cities Programme”, the UN supported Government efforts in six cities – Jolfa, Maragheh, Paveh, Aran Bidgol, Souran, and district 13 of Tehran – to improve environmental health, emergency preparedness, community participation, healthy lifestyles, and healthy public spaces. The UN closely engaged with the authorities to facilitate the revitalization of Iran’s “G5 initiative” for enhancing cross-border collaboration among Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, and Tajikistan to manage communicable diseases and enhance preparedness for emergencies. The UN supported national efforts to reduce HIV-related discrimination in community, healthcare, and humanitarian settings, developing standard operating protocols and training 150 experts. In cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, the UN aided capacity development and studies for a pilot programme on offering health and HIV services and assisted the National AIDS Programme in integrating key services into public-sector counseling and testing centers.

### **Empowered care providers and health professionals to provide a higher quality of tailor-made services:**

Supported by UN, 60 community-based rehabilitation volunteers were capacitated to identify out-of-school children with disabilities and offer combined rehabilitation and remedial education support to 188 children with disabilities in rural and remote areas of Razavi and South Khorasan provinces. The UN conducted a bilateral assessment of capacities and knowledge exchange between Iran and Tajikistan to improve the surveillance of specific Escherichia coli bacteria. To increase the region’s capabilities for vector biology and control, transfer knowledge, and share best practices, the UN facilitated a regional exchange and collaboration between Tehran University of Medical Sciences and trainees from Afghanistan, Oman, Pakistan, and Somalia.

### **Improved quality of life of people living with disabilities:**

The UN strengthened national capacities in disaster risk reduction and preparedness by developing guidelines for parents/caregivers, teachers, and aid workers tailored for children with disabilities. The Integrated Growth and Development Data System developed for the Ministry of Education with UN support has enhanced access of the children with disabilities to support services with at least 1,500,000 children registered through this data system in 2023. Furthermore, 2,068 people with severe disabilities in deprived provinces, including Sistan and Baluchestan, Kerman, Kohgiluyeh and Buyer Ahmad, and Khuzestan, gained access to essential assistive technologies and aids for daily living.

## **◆ Success story:**

### **Together for a coordinated support to people living with disabilities**

In 2023, the UN in Iran formed a joint flagship programme, with the goal of improving the quality of life for people living with disabilities. This initiative is jointly implemented by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN-Habitat, and aimed to address the needs of people living with disabilities in the areas of health, education, livelihoods, and empowerment; especially those facing economic vulnerabilities.

The UN in Iran developed a multisectoral action plan for rehabilitation, which addressed the existing gaps in the provision of rehabilitation services. UN entities also supported the establishment of the Integrated Growth and Development Data System – through cooperation with the Ministry of Education – targeting at least 1.5 million children per year. Other activities included supporting access to education of 270 children with disabilities in hard-to-reach areas, training of over 100 professionals to strengthen support, targeted supports with cash assistance to ensure full coverage of the Universal Public Health Insurance in the country, together with awareness raising and self-care trainings.

For Zahra, a resident of Khorasan Razavi, assistance in the form of cash cards was critical in making sure her mother received the eye surgery she needs; a surgery that, if not done, would lead to her mother permanently losing her sight. With the support, the family can cover the relevant insurance costs.

“Having medical insurance would be a lifeline for my mother, rescuing her from the threat of total blindness,” said Zahra. “I am grateful for the support it offers us.”

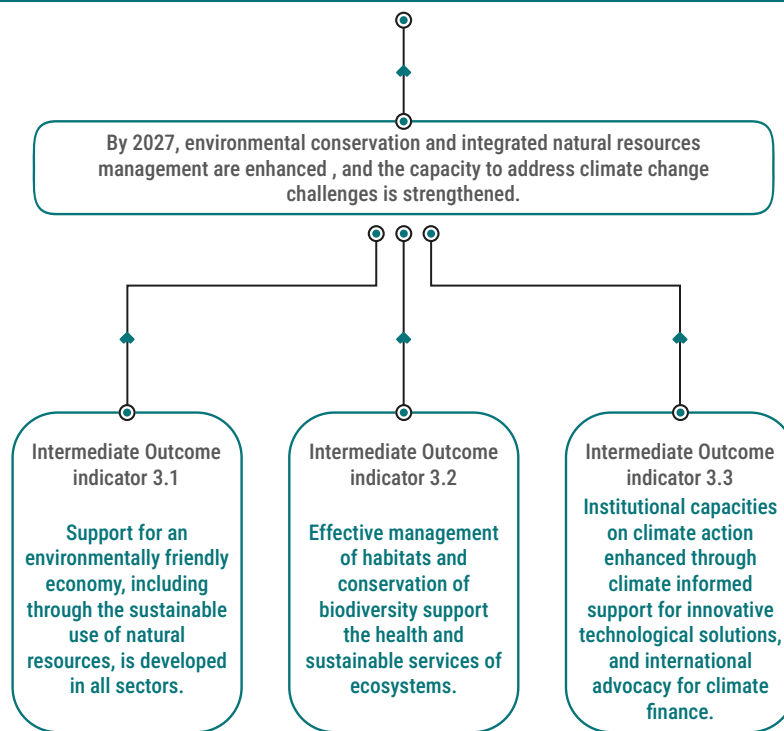
UN Iran’s support as part of this flagship programme included providing access to over 3000 assistive technologies – such as hearing aids, wheelchairs, walkers and other technologies. This was particularly important as accessibility remains a major impediment for many people living with disabilities around the world, in terms of mobility, community participation and social inclusion.



# Outcome 3

Environmental conservation, integrated natural resources management and addressing climate change challenges

## Outcome 3 Environmental conservation, integrated natural resources management and addressing climate change challenges



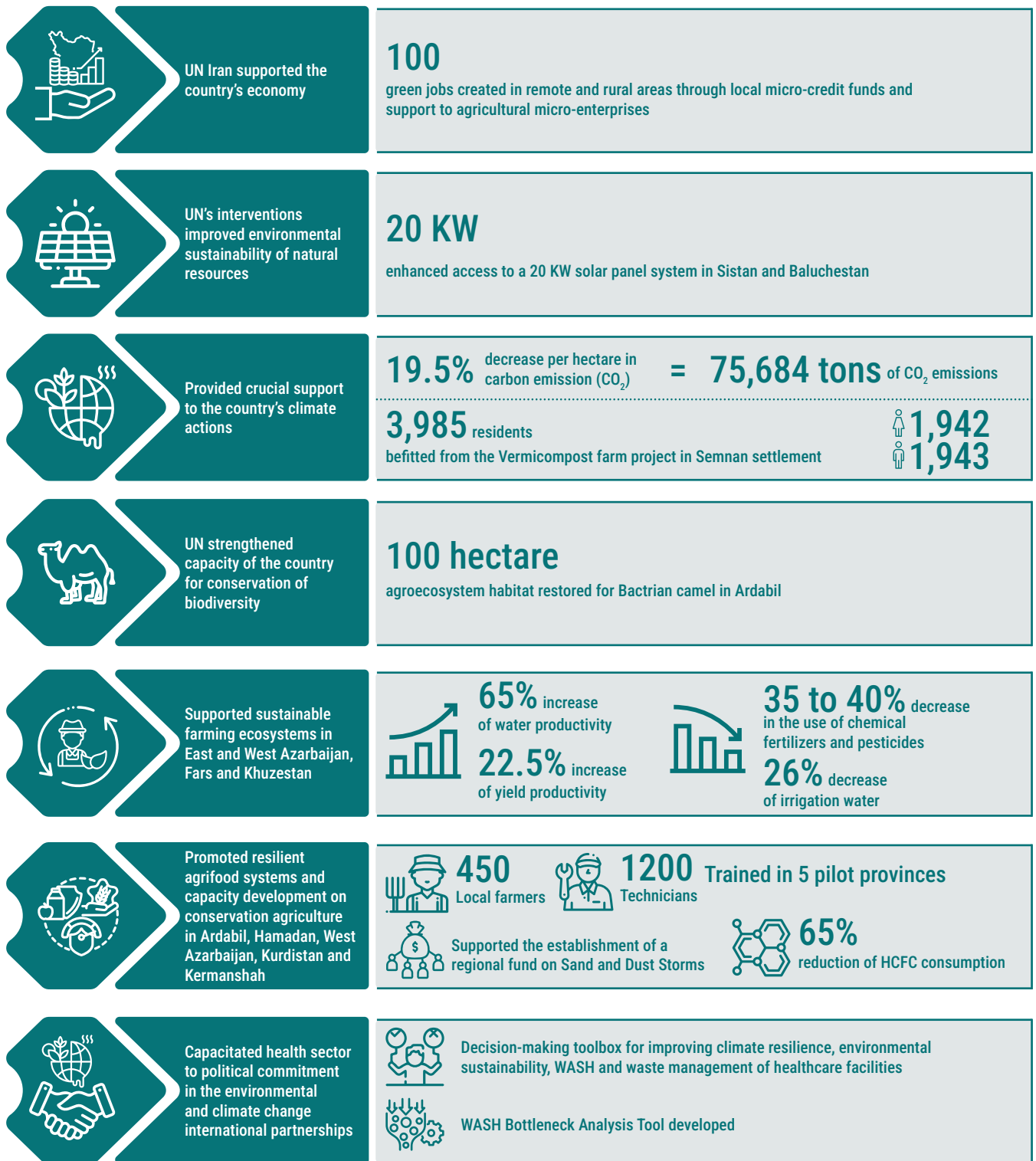
◆ **Chaired by:**  
UNDP

◆ **Contributing UN agencies:**  
FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, WHO

◆ **Expenditure:**  
US\$ 3,422,242



## ► Key achievements:



Focusing on green jobs and sustainable livelihood initiatives, the UN concentrated its work in 2023 on the delivery of local microcredit funds and support for agricultural microenterprises, which resulted in the creation of over new 100 job opportunities in remote and rural areas of Kerman and South Khorasan provinces.

As a result, efforts in conservation of wetlands in Iran have led to a 2.37% increase in employment in 44 pilot villages, including areas in East and West Azarbaijan, Fars, and

Khuzestan provinces. The support provided has helped diversify income sources and allowed for the adoption of new income-generating activities, the acquisition of new skills, and access to different markets.

As an example, in one specific project, the UN supported the creation of a vermicompost farm in the Semnan settlement, promoting recycling and waste reduction practices. The farm has directly benefited 4,004 residents, with an equal number of females and males. Operating at a production

rate of two tonnes per day, the vermicompost farm not only addresses environmental concerns but also contributes to the community's well-being by providing sustainable waste management solutions and creating local income opportunities.

The UN engaged over 450 local farmers and training 1200 technicians in five pilot provinces - East and West Azarbaijan, Hamadan, Kurdistan and Ardabil, leading to the promotion of resilient agrifood systems and the adoption of conservative agriculture models. Further, the UN contributed to the restoration of over 100 hectares of agroecosystem habitat for the critically endangered Bactrian camel, as listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

In parallel to these achievements, the UN has actively collaborated with the Government to develop and implement management and action plans for the country's national wetlands, ensuring broad consultations and involvement of national stakeholders. In addition, the UN worked with national health authorities to effectively address the health impacts

posed by climate change. In this vein, the UN facilitated the enforcement of technical commitments through conducting health vulnerability and resilience assessments, as well as carbon footprint analysis and capacity building in statistically and climate representative healthcare facilities. These activities culminated in an evidence-based innovative solutions and decision-making toolbox for improving climate resilience, environmental sustainability, WASH and waste management. These upscaled the institutional mechanism for national surveillance and information management.

As a result, the country has also gained proactive international positioning and partnerships through its involvement in the Alliance on Transformative Action on Climate Change. Iran received also praise for its achievements, as a result of UN support to remove chemicals and proper waste management, to reduce 84.21 Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP) tones, which amounts to a 65% decrease in HCFC consumption, which surpasses the Montreal Protocol's institutional target for Iran in 2023. This accomplishment is particularly significant as Iran does not produce HCFCs domestically.

## ◆ Success story:

### UN entities support Iran's efforts under the Montreal Protocol

Climate change and its consequences impact the most vulnerable people and communities across the world. Mitigation efforts to combat climate change are critical to ensure the well-being of our planet and its inhabitants.

One of the flagship initiatives of the UN in Iran is supporting the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran fulfil its commitments under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer – a landmark multilateral environmental agreement that regulates the production and consumption of nearly 100 man-made chemicals referred to as ozone depleting substances.

One such substance is hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), which are used across various industries. In close collaboration with Iran's National Ozone Unit, UNDP, UNIDO and UNEP have rolled out a range of initiatives aimed at reducing consumption of HCFCs.

These efforts involve supporting and facilitating the transition journey of refrigeration and air conditioning and foaming industries to hydrocarbon as well as other technologies with low global warming potential; while simultaneously enhancing governmental institutional and operational capacities through by applying latest and more efficient technologies.

As a result of this joint project's efforts, Iran's consumption of HCFCs has remained below the control amount of 162/4 ODP tonnes throughout 2023.

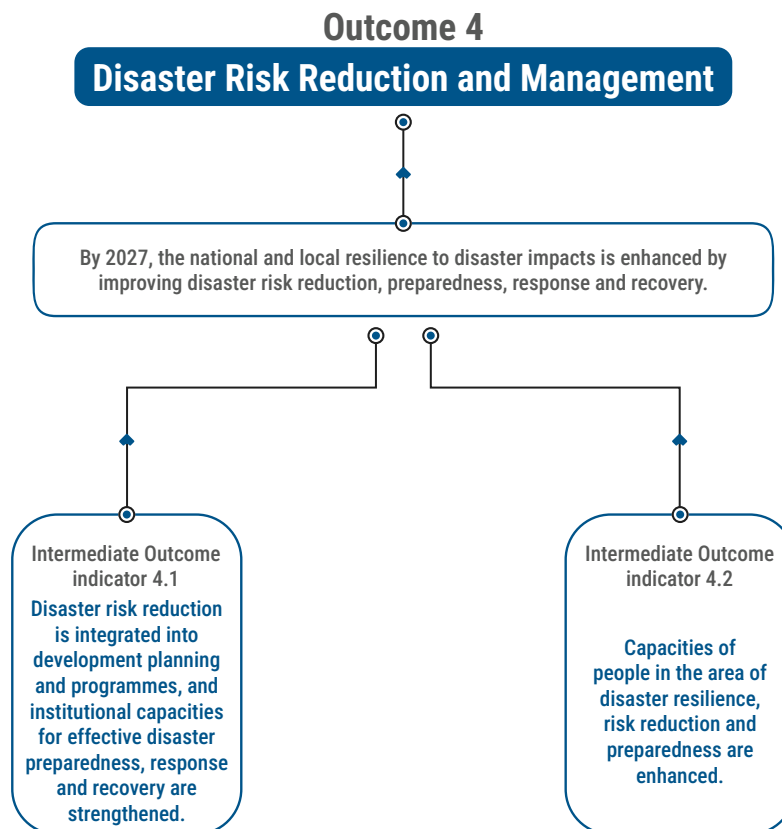


© 2023 | R290 Refrigerant Charging Facility the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran



# Outcome 4

## Disaster Risk Reduction and Management



◆ **Co-facilitators:**

UNOCHA, APDIM of UNESCAP

◆ **Contributing UN agencies:**

APDIM, FAO, UNDRR, UNFPA, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNDP and UNOCHA

◆ **Expenditure:**

US\$ 3,228,715



## ► Key achievements:

### 1 Supporting national disaster risk reduction and management capacity development in the following areas:



The UN contributed to a study for a better understanding of the critical gaps in disaster data governance and policy design in Iran resulting in a set of recommendations on effective and efficient risk-informed policies.



Incorporating traditional knowledge into disaster risk management.



Integration of reproductive health needs of women and girls in disaster management plans and child protection in humanitarian action.



More than 40 representatives of the NDMO, both at the central level and from disaster-prone governorates in Iran, acquired new knowledge and competencies on disaster risk reduction and management topics.

#### • Climate:



The Government and UN jointly initiated the Impact-based Forecasting for Sand and Dust Storms (SDS) to mitigate the risk, damages and losses across of sand and dust storms on the various sectors.



Food and nutrition security and national contingency plan on desert locust early warning, survey, and control.

#### • Health:



Food and nutrition security mental health and psychosocial post-COVID-19 support.



Over 400 experts enhanced their knowledge and capacity on hospital and urban infrastructure resilience.

## 2 Response to the Khoy earthquake<sup>5</sup>



**109,589** affected individuals benefited from assistance



vouchers for health for **1,300** women



core relief items for **15,000** individuals



child protection in emergencies for **2,364** children



recovery of **160** individuals



**55,724** individuals

24,604 27,678 3,175

- Hygiene improvement
- Provision of essential facilities
- Increased awareness of sexual and reproductive health

Throughout the year, the UN provided technical and substantive support to the Government, notably the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO), in strengthening capacity of national institutions to integrate disaster risk reduction into policies and plans, enhancing disaster resilience and recovery, and address the specific needs of populations in vulnerable situations in the event of a disaster.

Several examples of technical support and advisory functions to the authorities particularly stand out. A child-centered community resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction Plan was

implemented jointly by the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) with the objective to enhance the capacity of IRCS' workforce to effectively respond to and protect children at times of crisis. The UN system supported the development of a comprehensive national contingency plan to address the threat of desert locust outbreaks. Moreover, the UN conducted a desk review to evaluate the integration of reproductive health needs of women and girls in disaster management plans. The review identified gaps in addressing these needs, which informed Iran's National Health Disaster and Emergency Response Operation Plan.

<sup>5</sup> Figures as of January 2024

In addition to the established collaboration with NDMO, the UN teamed up with the National Cartographic Centre to conduct a study to identify critical gaps in disaster data governance and policy design. Additionally, jointly with the Plan and Budget Organization a study was initiated on integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into national development plans. The also UN collaborated with the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology to enhance national capacities in disaster risk reduction and preparedness for children with disabilities. Guidelines developed for earthquake and risk management for aid workers and caregivers of children with disabilities have improved support for children on autism spectrum disorder, children with hearing impairment, and children with physical impairment.

Iran also benefited from a range of regional initiatives conducted by the UN in the area of disaster risk reduction. The UN supported the development of a roadmap and action plan for earthquake risk management in West and Central Asia, including Iran. The APDIM and Iran Meteorological Organization initiated impact-based forecasting for sand and dust storms to mitigate damage and losses across various sectors, building on APDIM's study on 'Sand and Dust Storms Risk Assessment in Asia and the Pacific. In response to the request from countries to address the challenges of sand

and dust storms (SDS) on agriculture, the UN implemented an inter-regional project aimed at catalysing investments and actions to enhance resilience against SDS in agriculture. This project covered Iran and five other countries in the region, including Iraq, Kuwait, China, Algeria, and Mongolia. As a result of this initiative, a contingency planning process was developed for enhancing resilience against SDS in agriculture in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In addition, the UN rapidly mobilised early relief in response to the January 2023 Khoy earthquake, notably supporting the primary healthcare system, providing access to healthcare services for 55,724 individuals, including 24,604 women, 27,678 men, and 3,175 children under the age of five. The UN established temporary learning spaces, provided learning materials, and rehabilitated damaged schools to ensure the continuity of education. 2,364 children in camps received services from the Child Protection in Emergencies volunteers supported by the UN in four counties of Khoy. Humanitarian cash transfers reached 473 households, benefiting approximately 1,750 individuals, and contributing to increased resilience after the Khoy, earthquake, reaching 4,994 earthquake-affected individuals.

## ◆ Success story:

### A "One UN" response to the Khoy earthquake

On the crisp winter night of 28 January 2023, an earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale hit Khoy in north-west Iran. The disaster affected at least 261,000 people and displaced 130,000 from their homes in sub-zero temperatures. Some 15,000 houses were destroyed across 70 villages.

In response to the request by national authorities, UN Iran quickly mustered a collective response. The multi-agency response aimed to address the pressing humanitarian consequences of the disaster, including on gender, health, shelter and education. Following the immediate dispatching of emergency relief for the victims, UN Iran deployed a needs assessment mission to the epicenter to ensure that the response package is closely tailored to the needs on the ground.

The initial comprehensive humanitarian package targeted the immediate needs of survivors including shelter, medicine, mental health support, sanitary, hygiene packs and essential supplies. Longer-term efforts followed, to ensure that those affected can rebuild their lives with dignity.

IOM launched a Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance programme, empowering individuals like Fatemeh, a 40-year-old mother of two whose home was destroyed, to prioritize her needs.

In tandem, UNICEF facilitated the delivery and installation of prefabricated classrooms, ensuring uninterrupted education for affected children. They also distributed hygiene and baby kits, promoting health and well-being among the families. Moreover, 1,700 children received



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psychosocial support through a UNICEF-IRCS programme, fostering resilience in young hearts and minds.

UNFPA, alongside its local partner, extended life-saving maternal and mental health services to 1,300 women affected by an earthquake. This was accomplished by providing unconditional Cash Voucher Assistance, covering transportation and associated costs for accessing maternal and mental health services. Notably, the recipients of cash cards included 143 pregnant women, 689 single-parent mothers, 78 women with disabilities, and 390 households with a member with disability.

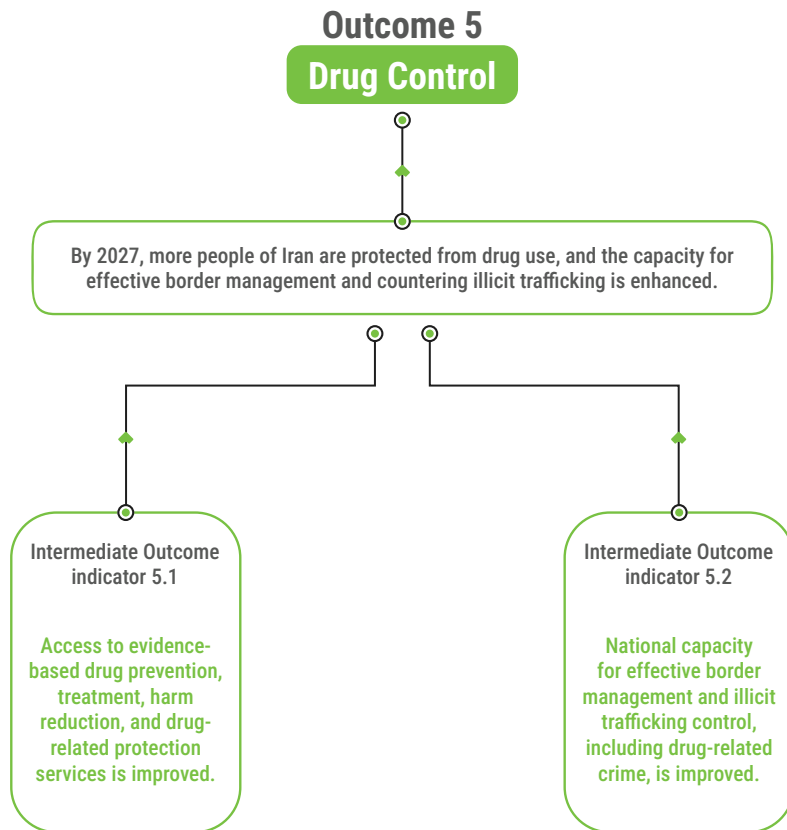
The response to Khoy earthquake also shed light on the effective collaboration between UN entities and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the benefit of the persons affected by this sudden natural disaster.





# Outcome 5

## Drug Control



◆ **Chaired by:**

UNODC

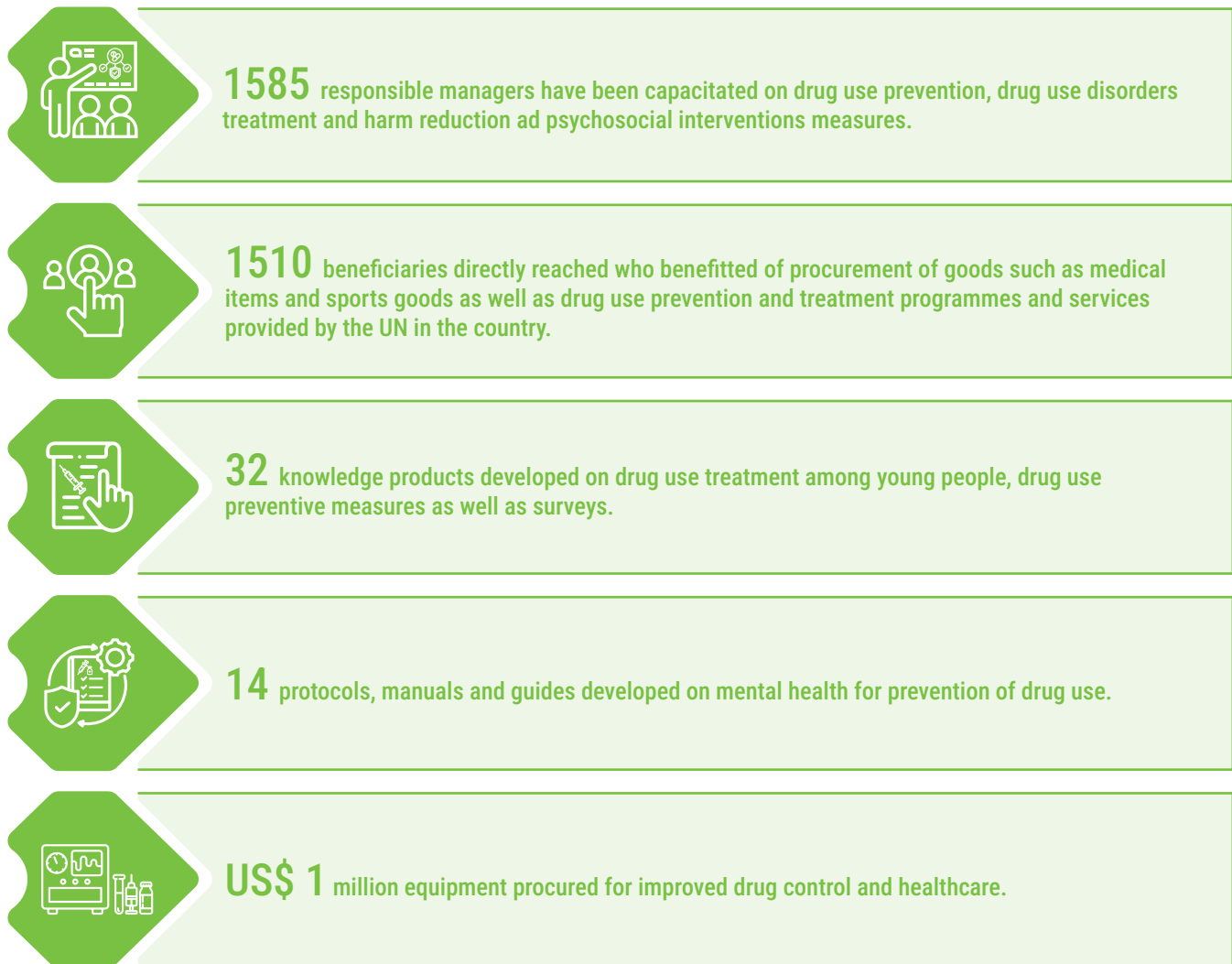
◆ **Contributing UN agencies:**

UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO

◆ **Expenditure:**

US\$ 2,280,852

## ► Key achievements:



### Improved prevention of drug use among young people and their families:

The UN involved 31 facilitators from several Iranian universities of medical sciences in the implementation of the “Strong Families Programme”, which helped families and children addressing social and health issues like substance use, violence, and crime. As part of the programme, sports promotion improved the resilience of 400 at-risk youth in the six provinces of Fars, Sistan and Baluchestan, Kerman, Khuzestan, East Azarbaijan and Qazvin. The UN contributed to the strengthening of the health system’s capacity to respond to drug use disorders to deliver equitable and high-quality health and care services to women, children, and other hard-to-reach populations such as refugees, and homeless people with drug use disorders. Such efforts resulted in the development of a surveillance system for drug-related emergencies, as well as its piloting across the country. In addition, the UN provided capacity building to enhance the knowledge of 1200 responsible managers on the development of offline and online packages for empowering the mental health workers of PHC centres on the provision of substance use prevention services.

The UN has taken steps to support the Government in addressing drug use among adolescents post-COVID-19. In 2023, the UN developed models and service packages for the wellbeing and empowerment of adolescents, including programmes on HIV prevention, psychological wellness, and empowerment, which were implemented in two centers, respectively in Kermanshah and Mashhad, benefiting more than 2,750 vulnerable adolescent girls, parents, and caregivers through drug and. Moreover, a parenting package was introduced in Qom, reaching 320 Iranian and Afghan parents and caregivers.

### People with drug use disorders benefit from improved drug use disorders treatment and harm reduction services:

In 2023, the UN supported the Government in capacitating health care professionals in various areas of drug use disorders treatment and provision of psychosocial interventions such as: motivational enhancement interventions, psychosocial interventions, overdose management, treatment of drug use orders among young people.

### Improved national capacity in illicit trafficking and border control:

The UN contributed to enhancing the national capacity for effective border management and illicit trafficking control through the procurement of three units of X-ray dual view body scanners, of a drug trace detector device and of four units of drug identification devices, as well as through the donation of ten drug detecting dogs to the Drug Control Headquarters and the procurement of three specially modified canine trailers. The UN collaborated with the medical unit of the Iranian Police Canine Centre, notably through the procurement of a veterinary anesthesia machine, a laparotomy set, and of a portable veterinary doppler sonography.

Moreover, the UN facilitated the participation of 41 national experts from the Anti-Narcotics Police, Iranian Customs, and the Drug Control Headquarters in specialized trainings on topics such as identifying new psychoactive substances, utilizing trained dogs to detect illicit drugs, and implementing effective border management policies. Lastly, the UN facilitated knowledge and expertise sharing through participation of eleven representatives from the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police, the Iranian Customs Administration, the Drug Control Headquarters, and other senior Government officials in the 45th meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies in Asia and the Pacific, which took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

### ◆ Success story:

#### Supporting adolescent girls with psychosocial and well-being programmes

For Mahtab, growing up into a large family with an unemployed father who was also a drug addict was difficult and frustrating. With 18 years of age, Mahtab had dropped out of school many times, and had been engaged in a number of unsafe behaviors, such as drug abuse.

It was with this backdrop that Mahtab came across outreach workers from the UNICEF-supported Adolescent Girls' Psychosocial Well-being and Empowerment Center.

Mahtab received an individual counseling plan, and group counseling sessions on drug use prevention. She navigated through the eight-month intervention, that aimed to improve competencies such as skills of assertiveness, self-worth and confidence, stress management, self-expression, emotion regulation, decision-making, and problem-solving. The drug prevention programme also led to her gradually coming off of drugs.



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Social circles were changed, and Mahtab started studying again. "I'm clean, and I'm super happy now," she added. Mahtab is now a volunteer at the center, helping others in similar situations lead happier and healthier lives.





## 2.3 Support to refugees and host communities

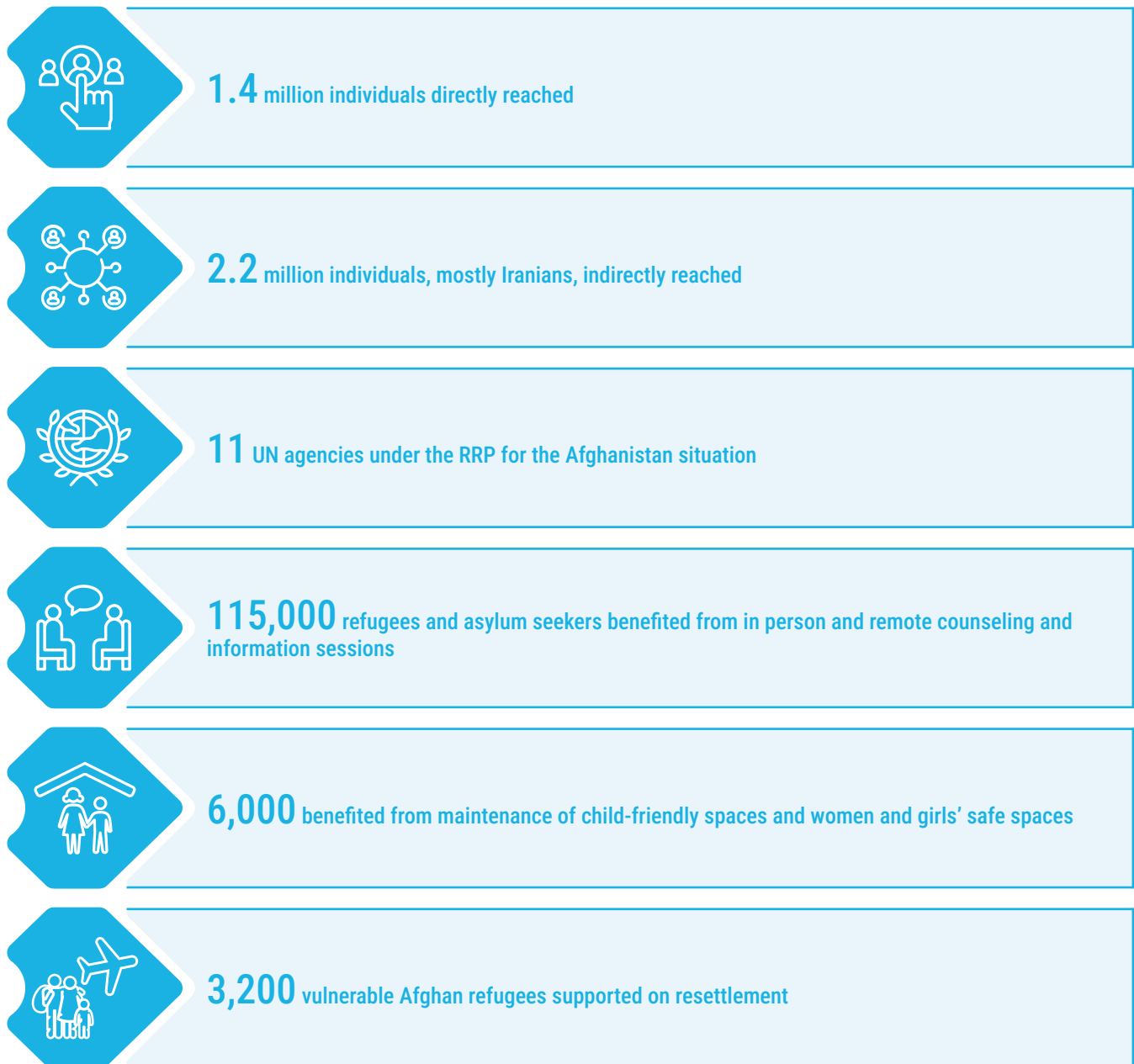
In support of the hosting capacity of the Government in line with the global responsibility-sharing commitment agreed upon in the 2018 Global Compact for Refugees, 11 UN entities – UNHCR, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, IOM, UNAIDs, UNFPA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO and UNODC – among the 15 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners provided a combination of in-kind and cash-based assistance and tailored services to 3.6 million individuals in 2023 for a total amount of US\$ 54,8 million.

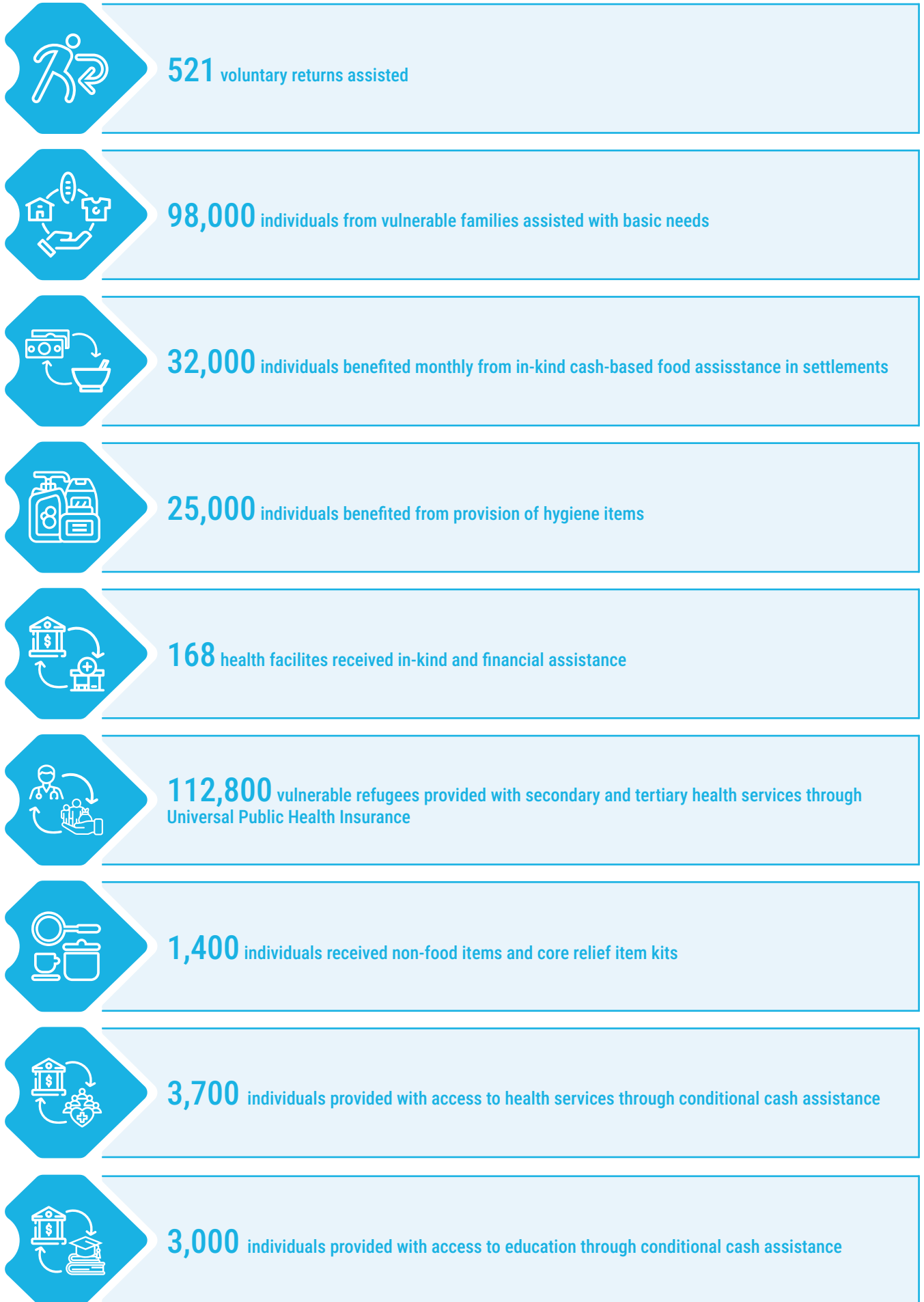
These RRP support was underpinned by the humanitarian-development nexus and in line with an area-based approach. For instance, nutrition programmes include screening and treatment for the most vulnerable. Similarly, support to health and education infrastructures enhance access to services for both refugees and host communities alike. Additionally,

skills training, and livelihood opportunities for Afghans were provided wherever possible. Furthermore, partners have prioritized support to other education services in Iran, such as training for teachers and education kits. Thanks to these concerted efforts, by both the Government and RRP partners, Afghans, including girls and women who are excluded from secondary education in Afghanistan, continued to have the opportunity to enroll in schools alongside Iranians.

Strategic collaborations with national counterparts, such as the National Organization for Migrations and provincial authorities, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, as well as Iran Health Insurance Organization, the State Welfare Organization and Technical and Vocational Training Organization, have facilitated the inclusion and national ownership of the RRP.

### Key achievements:







**1,050** individuals supported through technical and vocational training



**111** individuals benefitted from income generation opportunities



**20** individuals participated in partner-convened income generation workshops

### ► Success story:

## Fostering inclusion of refugees in national education systems and beyond

Hazratollah beams with pride talking about his school. The 12-year-old Afghan refugee studies hard and loves learning, earning his teacher's and principal's praise. He has made fast friends with all his classmates since starting school in Iran.

For over 40 years, Iran has provided refuge to Afghans fleeing violence, insecurity, and poverty in Afghanistan, despite the economic barriers arising from ongoing unilateral sanctions. As a result of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran's inclusive policies on access to education, refugee children can enroll in schools regardless of their documentation status. This policy, one of the most progressive in the world, gives hundreds of thousands of refugee children equal access to the national education system alongside their Iranian peers.

Hazratollah recalls the excitement of his first day of school after his family fled Afghanistan in 2021 amid political turmoil. The process for school enrolment can be challenging for foreign nationals in an unfamiliar country. Hazratollah's father was at odds when trying to navigate the new system.

Fortunately, Iranian friends and officials of the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) helped the family in securing the necessary documents. Still, Hazratollah impatiently asked to attend classes at a neighborhood school as he awaited approval.

Iran hosts nearly 3.4 million Afghan refugees, one of the largest refugee hosting countries in



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the world. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, supports Iran's inclusive education policy mainly with the construction and equipment of schools. Without more international backing of the country's decades-long hospitality, refugees may face increasing barriers to access services, including adequate support to have an education.

"We study at home a lot, but it is better if we go to school," said Hazratollah. "I would love to become an engineer. It is a beautiful job, better than being a construction worker," he continues reflecting on the many times he saw his father crafting metal at his workplace.

A passion for learning drives Hazratollah to excel at school. But global solidarity is critical to make refugee children's wishes come true. More international support and funding is imperative to ensure that young refugees like Hazratollah fulfil their dreams.





## 2.4 Support to partnerships and financing

The UN in Iran made substantial progress in building strong and sustainable cooperation with national and international actors during 2023. Most of the new cooperation plans were focused on building national capacities.

Following the Khoy earthquake in January 2023, UN entities in Iran identified opportunities for transfer of expertise and learning and sought to build national capacities. IOM, UNFPA and UNDP cooperated with the National Disaster Management Organisation (NDMO) to foster community resilience. IOM cooperated with the Bureau of Alien and Foreign Immigrant Affairs, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), and the Social Welfare Organisation to link disaster resilience building efforts with sustainable development. UN-Habitat is supporting the establishment of a national sub-committee on urban resilience within the National Habitat Committee in the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, NDMO, and Municipalities, so to mainstream resilience topics within urban development regulations and activities. UNFPA has cooperated with IRCS and the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to enhance community resilience. WHO continued to procure essential, life-saving medical equipment including through a World Bank loan under the COVID-19 Emergency Response Project for Iran.

In terms of climate resilience, to address and mitigate the impact of water scarcity and climate change, UN entities in Iran have facilitated a cooperation between the Swedish International Water Institute and the Ministry of Energy

and Ministry of Interior to provide support in the Water and Sanitation and Energy sectors.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation continued to offer opportunities for shared learning and transfer of expertise between similar developmental contexts. Under this modality, UNFPA engaged government partners including the Ministry of Health and Medical Education through a study tour to Indonesia on HIV prevention.

In the area of humanitarian assistance and support to refugees and individuals in refugees-like situations, the UN continued to advance strategic cooperation with the State Welfare Organization, the Iran Health Insurance Organization and the Technical and Vocational Training Organization.

A decrease in donor funding was noted during the period which had a direct impact on the pace of delivery of UN programmes. Donors continued to face challenges in accessing UN programming locations and meeting beneficiaries.

Donors to the United Nations Iran programmes and projects in 2023 included Australia, Austria, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Denmark, the European Union, France, Germany, the Global Fund, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, and the private sector.

### ◆ Success story:

#### Supporting Iran in hosting an International Conference on Sand and Dust Storms

Exacerbated by climate change, sand and dust storms are becoming increasingly severe in the Middle East and West Asia. Due to the cross-boundary nature of the problem, efforts to address sand and dust storms require state-of-the-art science, regional cooperation and the design of integrated solutions; to simultaneously address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution.

At the request of Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the UN cooperated with Iran's Department of Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to organize a ministerial-level International Conference on Combatting Sand and Dust Storms, which took place in Tehran on 9-10 September 2023.

UN Iran worked to support the national counterparts in this effort of environmental diplomacy by mobilizing 16 UN experts from 12 different UN entities, who travelled to Tehran and presented a holistic, integrated perspective on sand and dust storms, including on topics such as early warning systems, economic and health impacts, and multidisciplinary solutions (e.g. land and water management and climate change adaptation).

The conference registered the participation of 46 member states' delegations, including seven at the ministerial level.

Building on the outcome document of the conference, UN Iran initiated engagement with the Iranian authorities to expand sector level coordination with the UN to the area of the environment, and to potentially identify additional sources of funding. As part of this work, UNDP is advising the Government on the methodology for establishing a regional fund to counter sand and dust storms. Together with the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator in Iraq, the UN Resident Coordinator in Iran is developing a framework for cross border collaboration with Iraq on climate change adaptation.



## 2.5 Results of UN working more and better: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency



One UN Iran Impact Fund



First UNSDCF Iran Joint Workplans



UNSDCF Flagship Projects



6 Joint Programmes



Estimated US\$ 200,000 cost-avoidance through UN Iran Business Operations Strategy

### Repositioning of the UN System delivering “as One” in the I.R. of Iran

On 12 March 2023, the UN and the Government of I.R. Iran held in Tehran a joint retreat to launch the new UNSDCF for 2023-24 and discuss priorities of cooperation. With 140 participants from 30 Government entities and 18 UN resident and non-resident agencies, participants discussed how the UN can best support the Government to advance its national development priorities and translate the new UNSDCF for 2023-2027 into strategic and integrated solutions to Iran’s socio-economic challenges.

The UNCT oversaw an exercise of collective programming through the development of the first-ever UNSDCF Iran Joint Work Plans for 2023-2024 on the online UN INFO platform. These Joint Work Plans will ensure greater alignment with national priorities as well as the principles of transparency and accountability. In 2023, the UNCT jointly implemented six programmes in Iran in the areas of health, environment, resilience and disaster preparedness, showing enhanced collaboration and coherence among UN entities in the country. UNSDCF Results Groups – under the guidance of the UNSDCF High-Level Steering Committee – developed joint flagship programmes and projects that leverage the UN’s international and national technical assistance capacities and also aim at fostering South-South and Triangular Cooperation and knowledge exchanges.

### Joint Advocacy and Communication

The UN Iran Communications Group improved the quality of both internal and external communications at country level, ensuring that UN values, work and results are effectively communicated to key constituencies in the country.

The UN in Iran marked UN Day 2023 through a comprehensive campaign, which included a high-level segment together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the I.R. of Iran, a digital campaign to promote the UN resident agencies, funds and programmes in the country, the lighting up of major monuments in Tehran in UN blue, and an art exhibition.

UN Iran continued to engage with universities and think tanks as part of its raising awareness role. For instance, furthering the dialogue on multilateralism, UN Iran organized a panel discussion in May 2023 titled “Multilateralism in a Divided World.” The event brought together representatives from the diplomatic community, Government officials, academia, UN experts, and the media to delve into the importance of trust in fostering effective multilateralism in the contemporary world. This inclusive discussion aimed to bridge gaps and emphasize the collective responsibility of nations in addressing shared challenges.

## ◆ Success story:

### UN Iran holds “Humanity, Solidarity, One Planet” art exhibition with participation of 35 countries

An art exhibition - titled Humanity. Solidarity. One Planet. - was held by the UN in Iran at the Niavaran Cultural-Historic Complex in Tehran from 8 to 17 December 2023, in collaboration with the Niavaran Historic-Cultural Complex, the ministries of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, and Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The initiative was part of a series of events to mark in Iran “UN Day”. Bringing together pieces of art and heritage from across the world, the exhibition underlined that, despite the diversity of our world, humans are all part of one; and have one planet as our home.

Located at the complex’s Blue Hall, the exhibit included pieces of art and culture that were lent by Embassies of 34 countries in Iran, in addition to contribution by the host country.

More than 14,000 members of the public visited the premises of the exhibition.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the exhibition on December 7, 2023, the UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Stefan Priesner said: “this exhibition recalls the core principles of the United Nations based on the UN Charter, which is a singular document in history. It reminds us that despite our differences, we all belong to the same family called Humanity, which is the basis for human rights. It is also based on the principle of solidarity so that no country and no person is left behind. And finally, it calls on us to protect this precious One and only planet that we all call our home.”

“This exhibition aspired to open a window to stories from all corners of the world for the people of Iran, added Mr. Priesner. “This is important because the UN is not only a forum of countries and governments, it is a confluence of peoples.”

## Donor Coordination

To ensure continued donor support for the UN development and humanitarian interventions in the I.R. Iran, two meetings were organized by the Resident Coordinator’s Office with the diplomatic community accredited in Iran, respectively in February and October 2023. Through extensive bilateral outreach to donors, the UN empathized the need for the international community to consider assuming a greater share of responsibility for the refugee influx challenges and the cross-border climate crisis. Through extensive bilateral outreach, donors were updated on development and humanitarian trends. This enabled greater alignment of donor priorities, UN programming and national developmental priorities.

## One UN Iran Impact Fund for Iran

In February 2023, UN-Iran launched the “One UN Impact Fund”, a pooled fund dedicated to finance joint programmes matching the UNSDCF priority areas. The UN launched a humanitarian window of the One UN Fund to respond to the abovementioned devastating Khoy earthquake of January 2023. This window received US\$ 950,981 from three donors (France, Germany, and the Republic of Korea). The funds mobilized through the One UN Impact Fund for Khoy were complemented by allocation from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

which enabled targeted projects by UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, IOM, and UNFPA to support the acceleration of the process of relief and recovery. Two meetings of the One UN Impact Fund Board were held during the year.

## Joint Operations

In 2023, the UN Iran Operations Management Team (OMT) under the leadership of the UNCT steadfastly advanced its mission of fostering collective collaboration through the UN Iran Business Operations Strategy (2020-2025). This strategy, which encompasses finance, human resources, procurement, ICT, administration, and logistics, aims to optimize efficiency and synergy across various service lines. With meticulous planning, the initiative aimed to achieve substantial cost savings of almost US\$ 200,000 throughout 2023. This was accomplished through the implementation of joint help desk services at three common premises and the establishment of long-term agreements for goods and services, including customs clearance, security, travel, and internet provisions.

Furthermore, collaborative efforts extended beyond mere cost-saving measures to encompass high-impact initiatives aimed at enhancing service quality. Through these efforts, the UNCT advanced the UN’s broader objectives of inclusivity, sustainability, and efficiency.



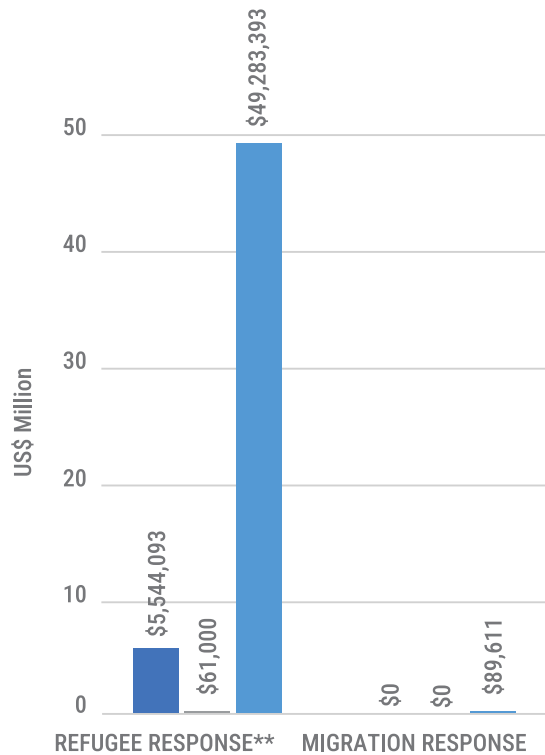
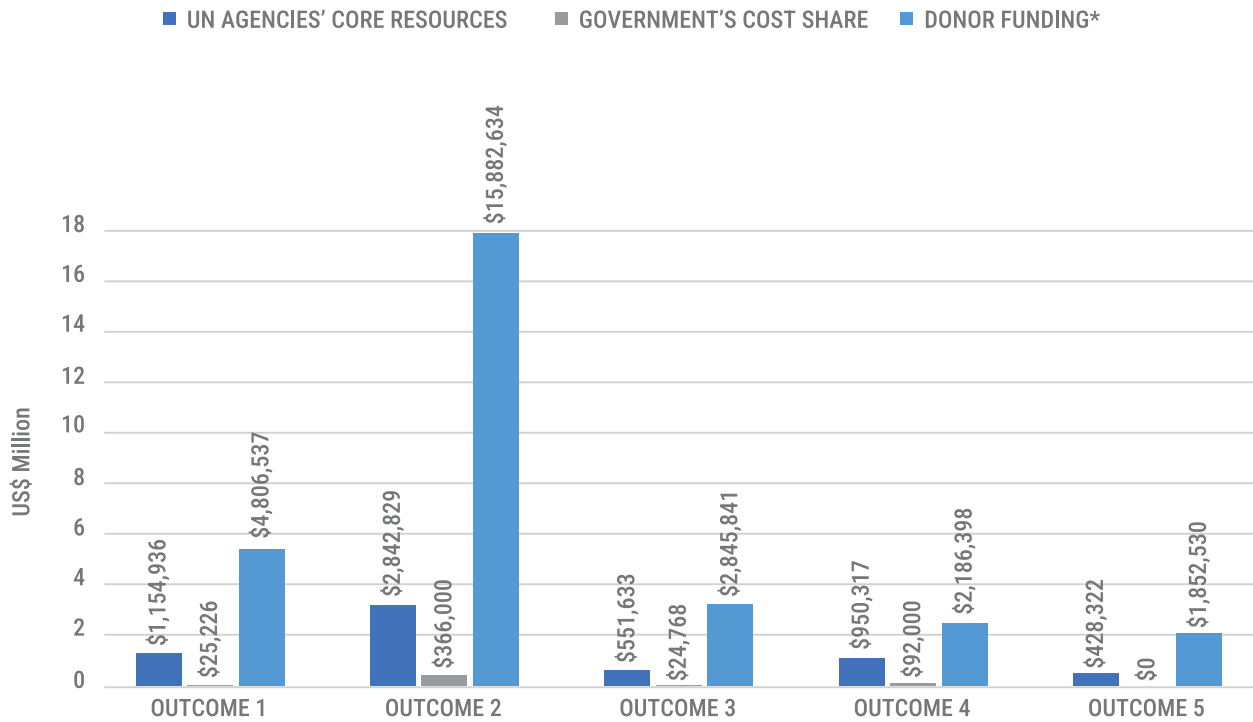


## 2.6 Financial overview and resource mobilization

### ◆ Total Expenditure Per Pillar:



## Expenditure by UNSDCF Strategic Priority<sup>6</sup>:



\* For in-kind contribution from donor/private partners value is in US\$  
 \*\* All UN agencies, including those working on the Refugee Response Plan for Iran

6. These figures are related to the projects and programmes implemented under the UNSDCF for the I.R of Iran and Refugee Response Plan in 2023.

## Donors/Partners and Implementing Partners Per Pillar:

	Donors/Partners	Implementing Partners
<b>Socio-Economic Resilience</b> 	Japan, EC/ECHO, EU, Austria, Norway, UNFPA Emergency Fund, GEF/MAJ	Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, Department of Environment, Digikala, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Agricultural Jihad
<b>Public Health Management</b> 	Netherlands, Global Fund, Japan Committee for UNICEF, UNAIDS (UBRAF), Nutrition International, Austria, USG contribution against HAC ACT-A, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance, Japan, Norway, Netherlands, One UN Impact Fund, UBRAF, World Bank Project, ICERP, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF), Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), European Commission	Ministry of Health and Medical Education – Center for Disease Control, State Welfare Organisation, Prisons Organisation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>Environmental conservation, integrated natural resources management and addressing climate change challenges</b> 	Japan, Republic of Korea, GEF/MAJ, Multilateral Fund for implementation of Montreal Protocol	Department of Environment, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Agricultural Jihad, National Secretariat to Combat SDS
<b>Disaster Risk Reduction and Management</b> 	Japan, EC/ DG ECHO, One UN Impact Fund (MPTF), UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Netherlands, Germany (Federal Foreign Office), ESCAP/APDIM budget, UNFPA Emergency Fund, Australia	Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Energy, Iranian Red Crescent Society, Drugs Control Headquarters, Ministry of Sport and Youth, IRCS, National Disease Management Organization
<b>Drug Control</b> 	EC/ECHO, Diplomatic Spouse Group, United Nations Joint Programme (Netherlands), Germany (Federal Foreign Office), Russia, Italy, Japan, UNAIDS, EU, France	Drug Control Headquarters
<b>Refugee Response</b> 	EC/ECHO, France, Germany (Federal Foreign Office), UNFPA Emergency Fund, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, EU, UN CERF, Italy, EU/INTPA, Russia, UNAIDS, UNFPA, Switzerland	Government: BAFIA, Iranian National commission for UNESCO (NATCOM), TVTO, Iran Health Insurance Organisation, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, National Organisation for Migration, NGOs: Relief International, PDA, NRC, Iranian Life Quality Empowerment (Ili), Rebirth Charity Organisation, Society for Recovery Support (SRS), Association for Protection of Refugee Women and Children (HAMI), Iraqi Refugee Aid Council (IRAC)
<b>Migration Response</b> 	IOM Development Fund	NOM







# CHAPTER III

## ► UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR







The UN Country Team in Iran's focus for 2024 will be the provision of support to the Government and people of Iran along the priorities detailed in the Islamic Republic's 7<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Development Plan 2024–2028.

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, in line with the objectives and principles articulated in the new UNSDCF (2023-2027).

Particular emphasis will be paid to the design of integrated solutions for inclusive and sustainable development. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UN family in Iran will seek enhanced cooperation with the Government and relevant stakeholders in the areas of UNSDCF collaboration.

Building on best practices in Iran and internationally over the past decade, UNSDCF Results Groups– under the guidance of the UNSDCF High Level Steering Committee – will further refine joint programmes that advance efficient, coordinated, and agile solutions to address 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 take additional steps to identify new financing modalities, including through the further development of 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.

In parallel, new integrated development approaches that connect livelihoods, health, knowledge, communities, and eco-systems through regional and area-based solutions will be initiated and supported, contributing 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, and ensuring concrete benefits for the host communities.



# Annex I

## ▶ LIST OF ACRONYMS







## List of acronyms

<b>APDIM</b>	◆	Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management
<b>CERF</b>	◆	Central Emergency Response Fund
<b>CBI</b>	◆	Central Bank of Iran
<b>DCHQ</b>	◆	Drug Control Headquarters
<b>DoE</b>	◆	Department of Environment
<b>ECHO</b>	◆	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
<b>FAO</b>	◆	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GEF</b>	◆	Global Environment Facility
<b>ICHTO</b>	◆	Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicraft, and Tourism Organization
<b>ICERP</b>	◆	Integrated Child Emergency Response Plan
<b>IOM</b>	◆	International Organization for Migration
<b>IRCS</b>	◆	Iranian Red Crescent Society
<b>MoCLSW</b>	◆	Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour, and Social Welfare
<b>MoE</b>	◆	Ministry of Energy
<b>MoHME</b>	◆	Ministry of Health and Medical Education
<b>MoEd</b>	◆	Ministry of Education
<b>MoJ</b>	◆	Ministry of Justice
<b>MRUD</b>	◆	Ministry of Roads and Urban Development
<b>MSRT</b>	◆	Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology
<b>NDMO</b>	◆	National Disaster Management Organization
<b>PBO</b>	◆	Plan and Budget Organization
<b>PHC</b>	◆	Primary Health Care
<b>RRP</b>	◆	Refugee Response Plan
<b>SDS</b>	◆	Sand and Dust Storms
<b>SWO</b>	◆	State Welfare Organization
<b>UBRAF</b>	◆	Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework
<b>UNFPA</b>	◆	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	◆	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNIDO</b>	◆	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNODC</b>	◆	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNSDCF</b>	◆	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>WFP</b>	◆	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	◆	World Health Organization



**UNITED NATIONS**  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



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