United Nations Development Assistance Framework
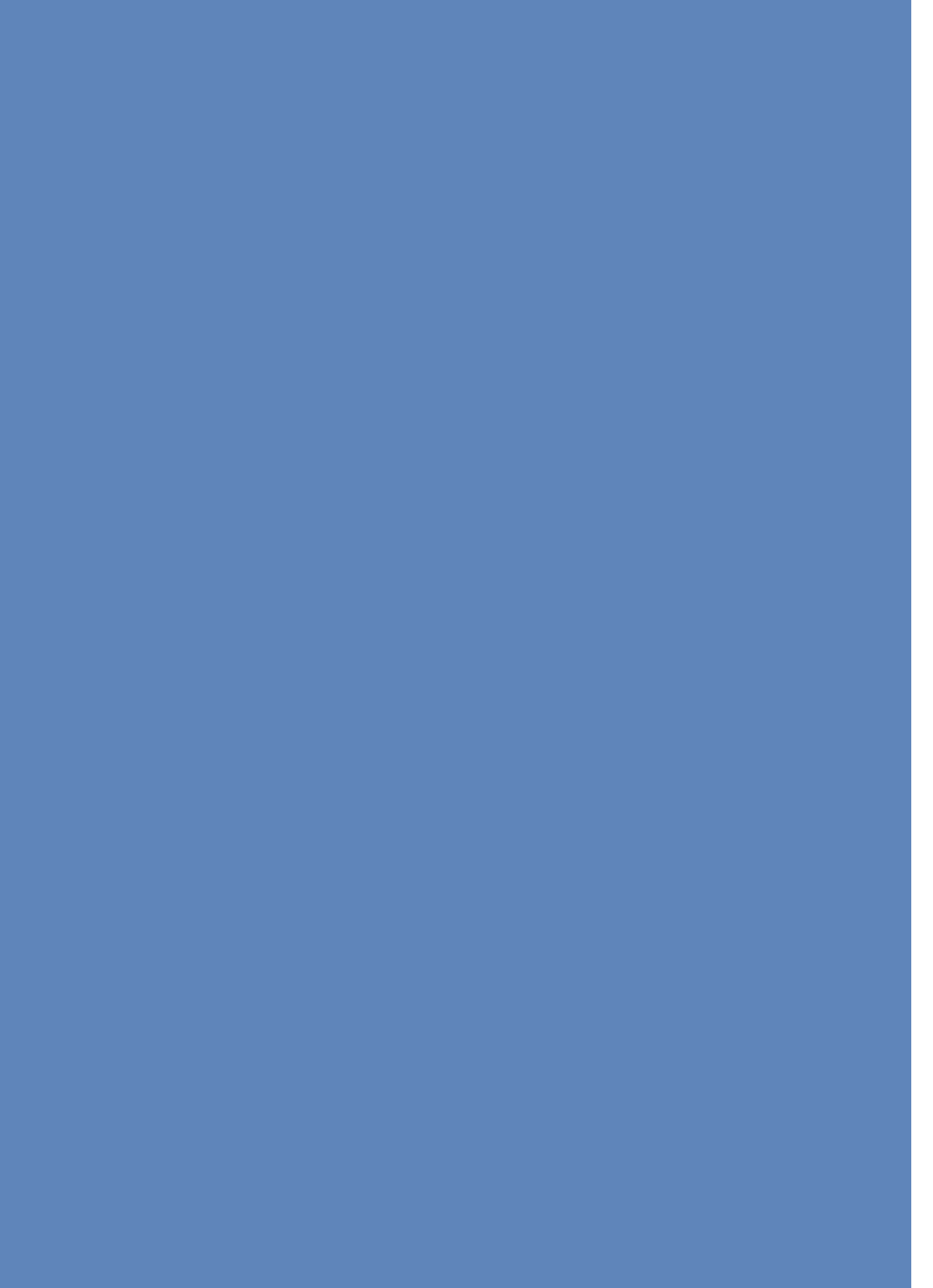
End-of-Cycle Progress Report

UNDAF

2012 to 2016

Islamic Republic of Iran

United Nations Development Assistance Framework | End-of-Cycle Progress Report | Islamic Republic of Iran | 2012 to 2016

Acknowledgement

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Executive Summary

Farmers working in
Bonab City located in
East Azerbaijan as part of
UNDP's restoration of Lake
Urmia project.
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● In September 2011, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) signed an UNDAF covering the work of the UN development agencies in Iran from 2012-2016.

● The UNDAF was fully aligend to the Islamic Republic of Iran's 5th Five-Year National Development Plan (NDP).

● The UNDAF guides the work of the UN agencies to support five mutually-agreed national development priorities. These priorities were:

Poverty Reduction

Health

Environmentally Sustainable Development

Natural Disaster Management, and

Drug Control and Prevention

● The total number of results reported by all UN agencies during the reporting cycle was **557**. (For a definition of 'results' please see Annex.)

● During the period under review, UN support was channelled overwhelmingly towards capacity development, followed by policy-making and planning, service delivery and knowledge products. This pattern was consistent across all of the five priority areas.

● The largest share of the results was in the area of Health. This was followed by Poverty Reduction, Drug Control and Prevention, Environmentally Sustainable Development, and Natural Disaster Management, in that order.

● During the 2012-2016 cycle, some **US$ 88 million** was recorded as cumulative expenditure by UN development agencies. The largest share of the expenditure went on Health (approximately 49%), followed by Environmentally Sustainable Development (31%), Poverty Reduction (10%), Drug Control and Prevention (8%) and Natural Disaster Management (2%).

● During the reporting period, the Government of Iran demonstrated continued ownership of the UNDAF process through its active engagement in supporting implementation of UNDAF-related programmes. The formal mechanisms for Government engagement have included the UNDAF High-Level Steering Committee meetings, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings and the Steering Committee meetings of individual UN agencies. This has helped ensure the UNDAF's relevance to national priorities within Iran's broader development goals.

Introduction

Overview of the UNDAF

The UNDAF is a programme document agreed by the Government of Iran and the UNCT. It describes the collective actions and strategies of the United Nations to support the Islamic Republic of Iran achieve its national development priorities. The UNDAF for the Islamic Republic of Iran was prepared through a consultative process between the Government and the UNCT. UNDAF implementation was guided by the goals and targets of both national and global development goals. These included Iran's 5th Five-Year National Development Plan (NDP 2011-2015) as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Lake Urmia, in northwest Iran, photographed on 21 June 2016.
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In order to effectively respond to Iran's national development priorities, five priority areas were agreed to:

1

Poverty Reduction

The UNDAF paid particular attention to strengthening national and sub-national development planning capacities to promote inclusive economic growth as well as technical and vocational education, and improved availability and use of data.

2

Health

The UNDAF focused on the social determinants of health. It promoted evidence-based approaches to reduce disparities. It addressed improved family medicine in urban areas, which is where approximately 70 per cent of Iran's citizens live. It promoted effective surveillance, prevention and monitoring of both non-communicable and communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS. It adopted a more comprehensive approach to the health implications of disaster risk reduction.

3

Environmentally Sustainable Development

The UNDAF focused on improving capacities at all levels for integrated management, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It supported the mainstreaming of environmental economics into national planning. It promoted the effective prevention of and response to environmental pollution. It supported the formulation and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation plans and projects.

4

Natural Disaster Management

The UNDAF sought to build on existing strengths in Iran to support integrating disaster risk reduction into national development policies and programmes.   It sought to enhance national and local capacities to ensure systematic monitoring and multi-hazard early warning. It supported improved contingency planning, especially in most-at-risk populations.

5

Drug Control and Prevention

The UNDAF supported the development and implementation of effective, coordinated drug prevention programmes. It placed a focus on families, communities, educational centres and the workplace, prioritizing most-at-risk populations. It sought to enhance national capacities for effective treatment and rehabilitation programmes for people affected by drugs. It promoted evidence-based HIV prevention, treatment, care and control programmes among drug users. It strengthened national capacities to combat drug trafficking.

Within these five priority areas, the UNDAF established 14 outcomes, with a total of 80 contributing outputs. This progress report will consider the results and progress made by the UN system against each of the outcomes during the programme cycle 2012-2016.

UNDAF

Structure of UNDAF – IRAN (2012-2016)

Poverty Reduction
- Promote inclusive growth
- Reduce capability poverty

Health
- SDH approach in health systems
- PHC for most-at-risk groups
- CDs and NCDs reduced
- Health of disaster affected populations

Environmentally Sustainable Development
- Enhancement of national capacities

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
- DRR standards
- Early warning systems
- Resilience among most-at-risk groups

Drug Prevention and Contol
- Community-based preventions
- Treatment and rehabilitation
- HIV among injecting drug users
- Trafficking

UN Agencies involved in the UNDAF

The following UN agencies were expected to contribute to the 2012-2016 UNDAF in Iran:

FAO

Food and Agriculture Organization

IOM [1]

International Organization for Migration

UNAIDS

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNDP

United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFPA

United Nations Population Fund

UN-HABITAT

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme

UNHCR [1]

The United Nations Refugee Agency

UNIC [1]

United Nations Information Centre

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

UNIDO

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation

UNOCHA [1]

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

WFP [1]

World Food Programme

WHO

World Health Organization

1. Because these UN agencies' main operational focus is directly related to humanitarian (and not specifically development) outcomes, their contributions are not directly recorded in this UNDAF (2012-2016) End-of-Cycle report. The work of three other UN entities present in Iran (UNAMA, UNAMI, UNDSS) are also not reflected in this report.

Linkages between national and global development frameworks

The Islamic Republic of Iran's 5th Five-Year NDP was the country's medium-term strategic plan for the period 2011-2015. The NDP is the primary policy instrument that sets out the country's planned course towards social, economic, cultural and technological progress. The UNDAF (2012-2016) was a collective response by the UN to the national priorities set out in the NDP. The UNDAF also reflected the aspirations of the MDGs and Iran's initiatives as a signatory to a number of United Nations treaties. Explicit reference was also made in the NDP to social equity as a cross-cutting theme. This was to be achieved through the reduction of income inequalities, the reduction of unemployment, the expansion of social safety nets, and the promoting of the cooperatives sector. Ultimately, the goal was to support harmonised development in the areas of health, education and economy so that Iran's Human Development Index could reach the threshold for highly developed countries by the end of the programme.

Towards the end of the UNDAF cycle, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were formally adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015. These were later incorporated in the development of the subsequent UNDAF (2017-2021). The momentum of change continued in December 2015 when a new climate deal was agreed to during the 21st Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris.

Purpose and process of UNDAF reporting

Reporting is an integral part of the UNDAF planning and programming cycle. It supports informed, evidence-based decision making. As such, it aims to demonstrate the UN system's contribution to Iran's national development goals and priorities. It thereby enhances the mutual accountability of both the Government and the United Nations system.

Methodology and review

Roles and responsibilities

This UNDAF End-of-Cycle Progress Report (2012-2016) was prepared jointly by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in collaboration with the United Nations Monitoring & Evaluation Task Force (UN-MET). It is based on inputs received from the UN development agencies working in Iran. The UN agencies reported their achievements for the 2012-2016 cycle using the UNDAF Monitoring & Evaluation Tool, which is a spreadsheet application designed in 2012 by the UN-MET. The M&E Tool was endorsed by the UN Country Team in 2012 and field-tested in 2013. The tool was further refined and simplified in 2014. The tool was accompanied by clear instructions on how it should be completed as well as general guidance on the desired content and quality of agency inputs.

General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/208 on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR) underscored that the Resident Coordinator, supported by the UNCT, should report to national authorities on progress made against results agreed in the UNDAF. The UNDAF High Level Steering Committee organized a Joint UNDAF Annual Review for each year of the UNDAF duration. This aimed to review progress, and validate best practices and lessons learned during UNDAF implementation. As per the agreement between the UNCT and the Government, the UN agencies and their partners remain accountable for the performance of individual projects and programmes.

Empowered communities have assumed greater responsibility for restoring and sustaining their fragile land and limited water resources.
© Carbon Sequestration Project Office/ UNDP Iran

Key Development Trends

The Development Context

Iran's human development trends shows a positive change overall during recent decades, with Iran's Human development index improving steadily over the past 30 years.[2]

Iran's Human Development Index (HDI) for 2015 is 0.77. This puts Iran in the "high human development" category – positioning it at 69 out of 188 countries and territories. This implies that Iran's policy interventions were effective in the improvement of human development. Furthermore, the Government has been committed to reduce income poverty and capability poverty. Between 1990 and 2015, Iran's life expectancy at birth increased by 11.8 years. Mean years of schooling increased by 4.6 years. Expected years of schooling increased by 5.6 years. Iran's Gross National Income (GNI) per capita increased by about 60.6 percent between 1990 and 2015.
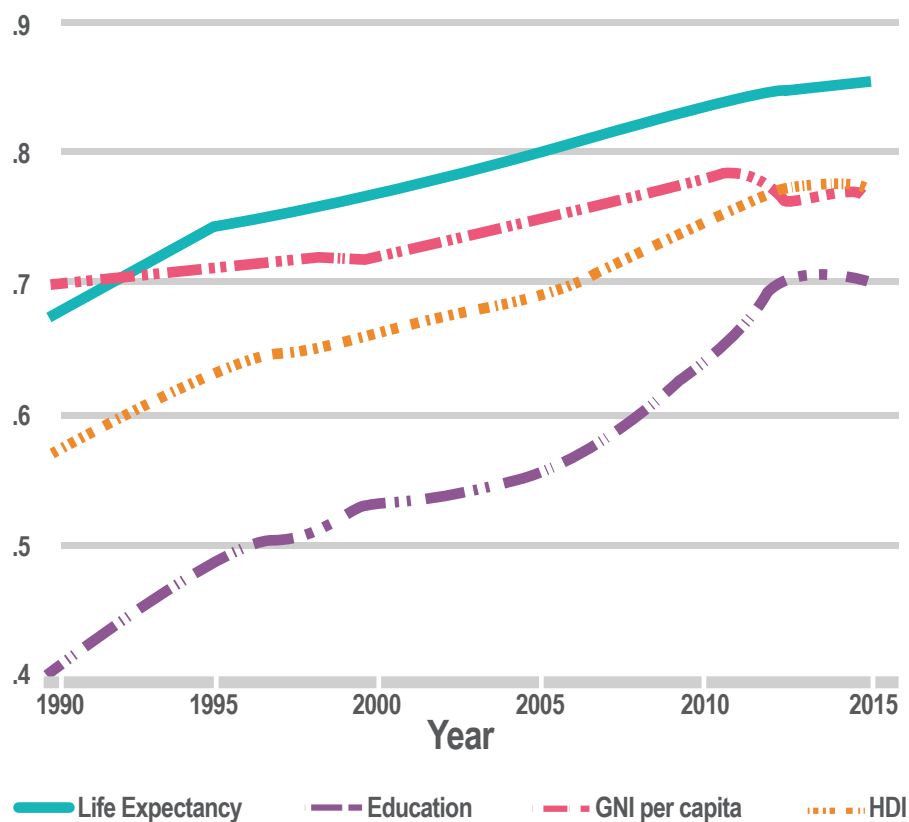
At the heart of the UN Iran projects lies a simple goal – women's empowerment.
© Hassan Moghimi

2. UNDP 2016 Human Development Report. http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/IRN.pdf

FIGURE 1

Trends in Iran's HDI Component Indices (1990-2015). Source: UNDP HDR 2016

Life Expectancy — Education — GNI per capita — HDI

Iran is regarded as having achieved a number of MDGs. Maternal mortality has decreased significantly from 150 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 19 per 100,000 live births in 2014. Life expectancy at birth has risen for both men and women, and more people have access to safe drinking water. Approximately 99% of all births were attended by skilled birth attendants in 2014.[3] Socio-economic factors as well as family planning programmes have affected the current total fertility rate which has declined to 1.8 births per woman.[4] The contraceptive prevalence rate stands at 77% (57% for modern methods).[5] However, the rapid fertility decline of the past 30 years has fundamentally altered the demographic profile of the country and has recently led to a reappraisal of the country's population policies. The Supreme Leader's Population Decree was approved in 2014 and promotes child-bearing behaviours. The current population trend may affect future socio-economic development.

"Iran has made significant progress in women's education and health since 1990. Key achievements include the increased ratio of literate women to men aged 15-24 from 97% in 2001 to 99% in 2007. It has continued to rise since that date. In addition, there has been an increase in the number of females represented in tertiary education. Women now constitute more than half of all university students."[6]

3. Ministry of Health: http://bit.ly/2qZ7UNm
4. Statistical Centre of Iran, 2011
5. World Bank. Contraceptive prevalence: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.CONU.ZS?locations=IR
6. Statistical Centre of Iran: https://www.amar.org.ir/english/Statistics-by-Topic/Education-and-Research.

According to the UNDP 2016 Human Development Report, Iran has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.509, ranking it 118 out of 159 countries assessed in the 2015 index.[7]

The Islamic Consultative Assembly (of the Iranian Parliament) has approved "The Charter on Women's Rights and Responsibilities" as a law, while the 5th Five-Year NDP, emphasizing the importance of social justice, envisages special support to female-headed households, including in social insurance.

Promisingly, in respect of addressing income inequality, Iran's Gini index has declined from 42.02 in 2009 to 37.35 in 2013, showing reduced inequality in income distribution among Iranians. [8]

However, inclusive and sustainable growth and development remain goals to be achieved. Iran strives to meet a range of development challenges such as poverty, environmental degradation and disaster preparedness. Unemployment, combined with inflation, were persistent challenges during the cycle. Youth unemployment rate has challenged the country's economic potential.

Environmental threats that Iran is facing include those associated with water, land degradation (including desertification and deforestation), air and water pollution (including sand and dust storms), energy inefficiency and biodiversity loss. These are exacerbated by land and water mismanagement issues, and challenges brought on by climate change, such as generally hotter and drier weather. Floods, drought and earthquakes are the most frequently-occuring natural disasters in Iran. With regard to the drug sector, trafficking, along with the drug-related morbidity and mortality associated with dependency and HIV infection were some of the key concerns faced by Iran.

The successful nuclear deal which was agreed in 2015, lifting nuclear-related multilateral sanctions, is expected, over time, to entail a significant impact on Iran's economy and development potential.

Children are colouring paintings in a rural pre-school center in a village called Sourgalam, north of Jask city – Iran.
© UNICEF Iran/Arfa

7. UNDP (2016). Human Development Report. http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/IRN.pdf
8. World Bank (2013). "World Development Indicators 2013." Washington, D.C.: World Bank. http://data.worldbank.org

Factors affecting risks and assumptions

Tehran, capital city of the Islamic Republic of Iran pictured on 2 January 2017.
© Kamyar Minoukadeh

● **The "nuclear issue"**

The level of support, technology and funding available for programmatic engagement from external donor partners was significantly affected by issues arising from the "nuclear issue" during the reporting period.

● **Iran's Upper Middle Income Country (UMIC) status**

Iran's status as an UMIC continues to deter external donor partner support.

● **Inaccessibility of certain "vertical funds"**

For well over a decade, the "vertical funds" – a combination of projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Global Fund (GF) against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria projects – had been a significant source of funding for the country programmes of some UN Agencies in Iran. However, much of this funding has been blocked from Iran since 2012. Under GEF-5, Iran was entitled to receive US$28.8 million, out of which only US$4.2 million could be realized. Iran's allocation under GEF-6 totalled US$ $17.2 million – none of which proved accessible during the 2012-2016 period. As a result, the cooperation programmes of some UN agencies tapered off dramatically.

● **Government cost-sharing commitments**

In some cases it has been difficult, in the austere government financial situation of the reporting period, to leverage commitments for government financial contributions to the UN's development cooperation programmes in Iran.

Progress Towards UNDAF Outcomes and the UN's Contribution

Overview of Progress

This report focuses primarily on profiling the results reported by UN agencies which are relevant to each of the UNDAF priority areas at output and outcome levels. Most of the results reported are at an output level, some are at the outcome level. The UN is one among many development cooperation partners contributing to national development outcomes. This is an ongoing and long-term process. Even the fullest delivery of agreed results by the UN would – alone – not be sufficient to bring about change at the outcome level. However, certain general observations on the overall progress of UNDAF implementation are possible.

Empowered women are a pathway to achieving sustainable development for their communities.
*© Ali Mohajeran*

FIGURE

2

Number and Distribution of UNDAF Results per Programmatic Category of Technical Support

The total number of results reported by all UN agencies during the reporting cycle was 557. UN support was channelled overwhelmingly towards capacity development, followed by policymaking and planning, service delivery and knowledge products (Figure 2).

This pattern remained more or less consistent across all five priority areas (Figure 3). The largest share of the results were obtained in the area of Health (213 results), followed by Poverty Reduction (133 results), Drug Control and Prevention (78 results), Environmentally Sustainable Development (71 results) and Natural Disaster Management (62 results).
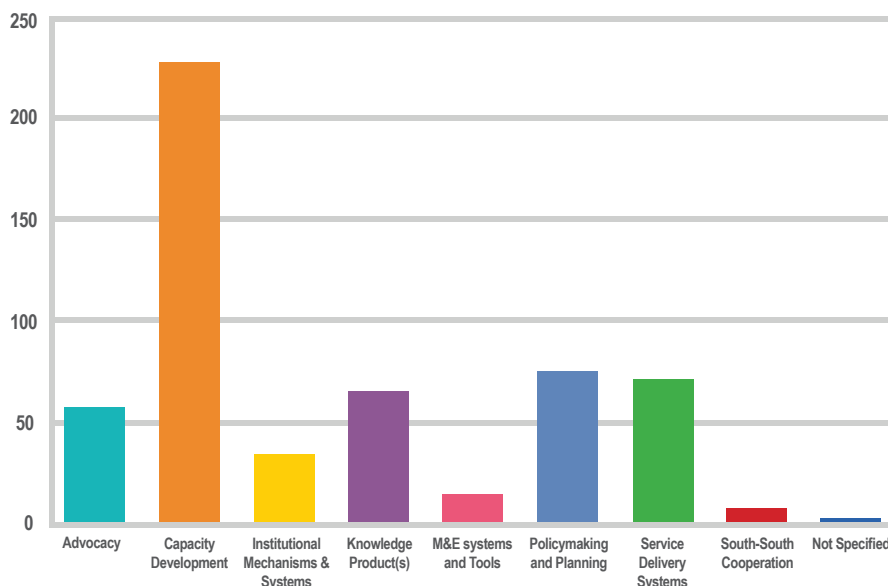
FIGURE

3

Number and Distribution of UNDAF Results per Priority Area and Programmatic Category of Technical Support
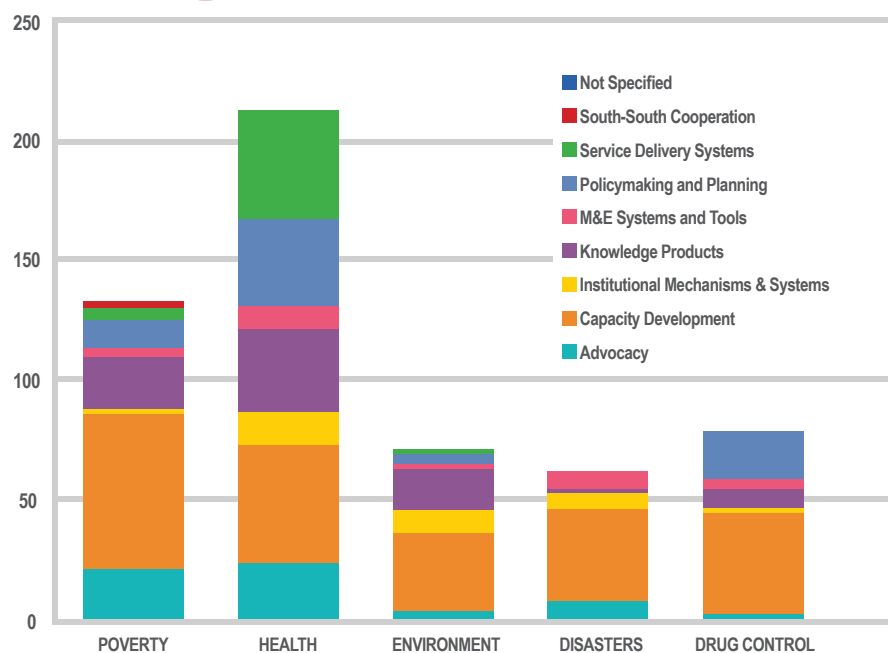
ENVIRONMENT	DISASTERS	DRUG CONTROL	POVERTY	HEALTH
27.0	2.0	7.0	9.2	43.0
31%	2%	8%	10%	49%

During the 2012-2016 cycle, **US$ 88 million** was recorded as the collective expenditure for the UN agencies in Iran. The largest share of expenditure was spent on Health (approximately 49%). This is followed, in decreasing order, by Environmentally Sustainable D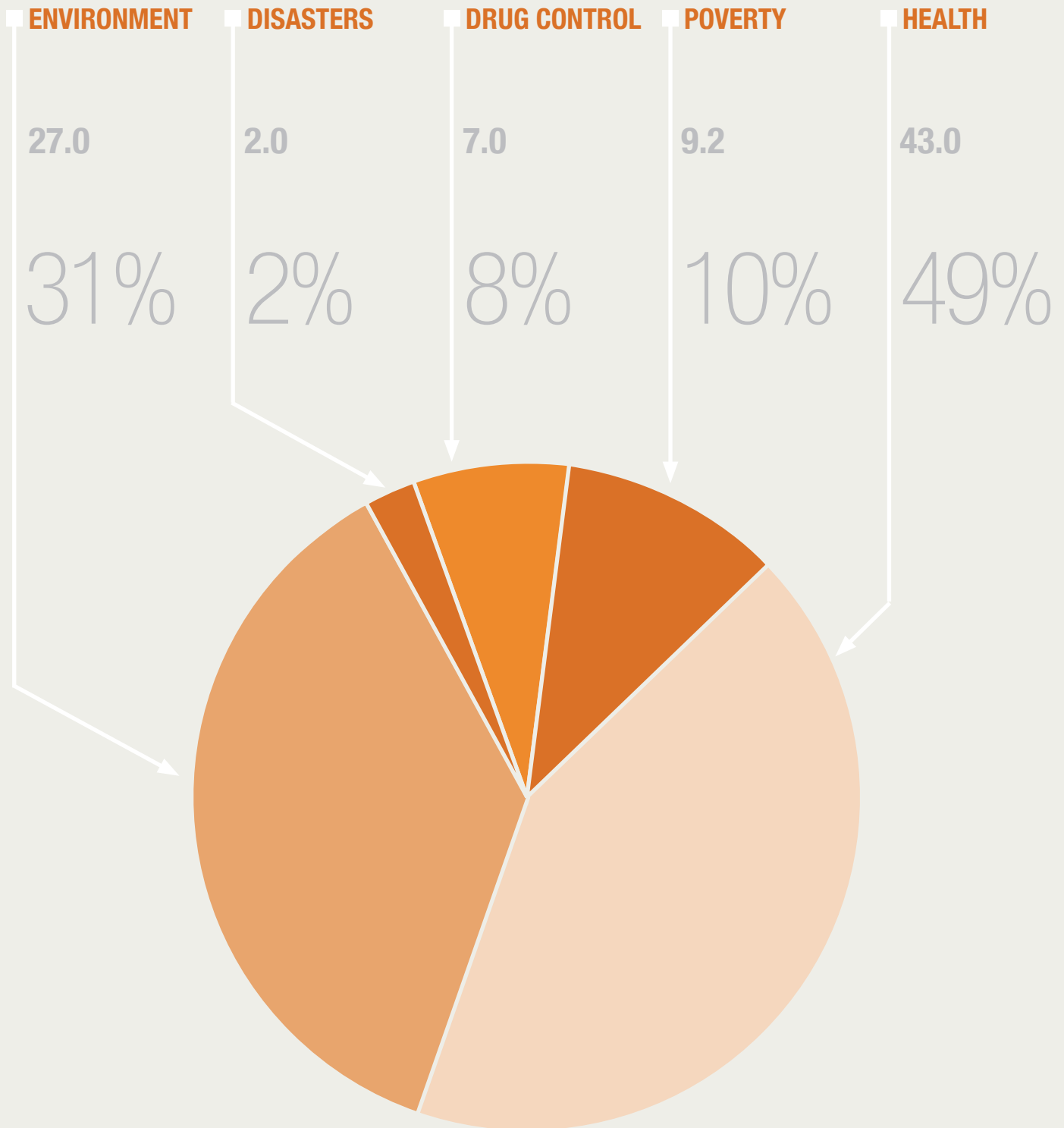evelopment (31%), Poverty Reduction (10%), Drug Control and Prevention (8%) and Natural Disaster Management (2%) (Figure 4).

In terms of expenditures by UN agencies, the agency with the largest financial expenditure towards UNDAF Outcomes during the period under review was UNDP (US$ 49.3 million). This was followed by UNICEF (US$ 10.3 million), UNIDO (US$ 6.8 million), UNODC (US$ 6.8 million) and WHO (US$ 5.8 million).

FIGURE

5

Expenditures (US $) by UN Agency During the (2012-2016) UNDAF Cycle

Agency	Expenditure
FAO	20,203,000
UNAIDS	1,396,866
UNDP	49,266,512
UNESCO	1,400,500
UNFPA	3,084,999
UNHABITAT	608,369
UNICEF	10,348,876
UNIDO	6,795,291
UNODC	6,777,949
WHO	5,836,338
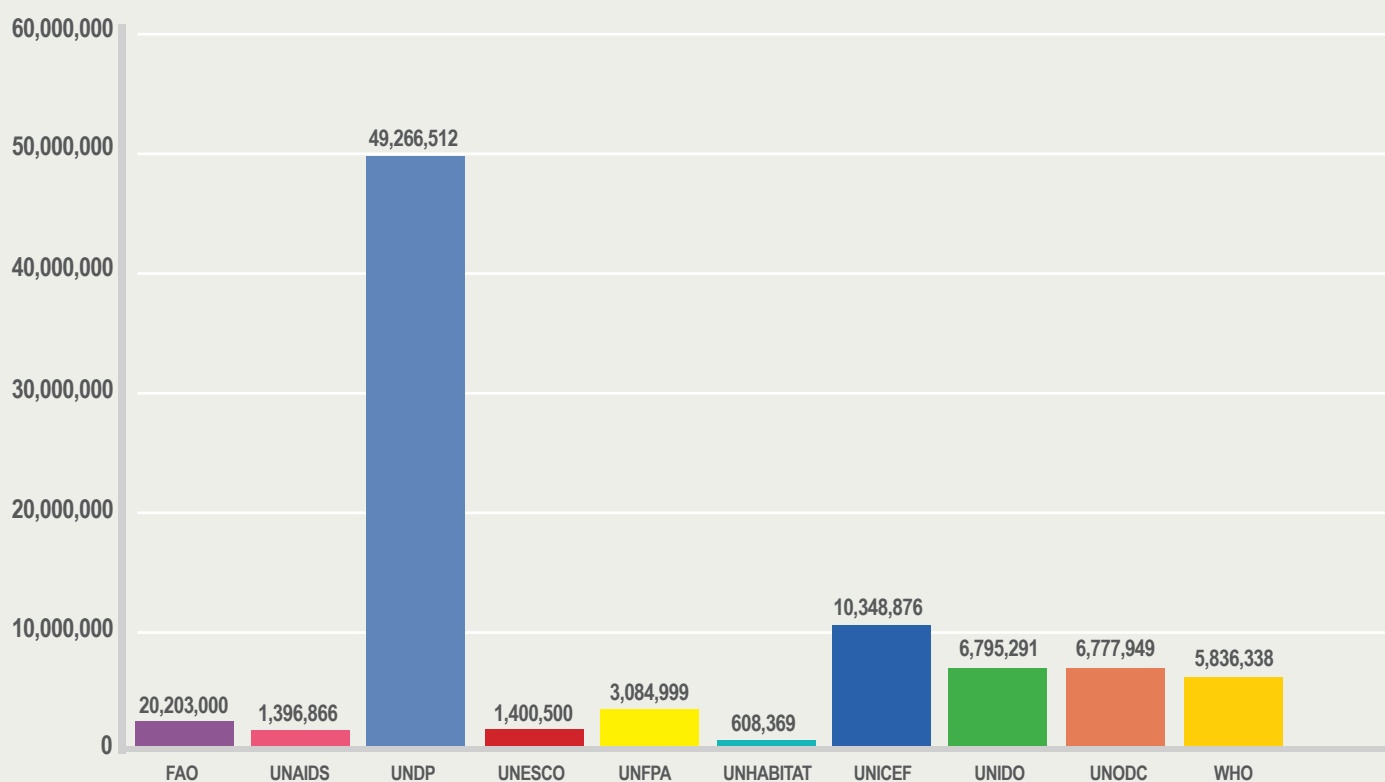
Progress in each development priority area

The scope of UN support provided to date in each priority area, and the contributions reported, are summarised in the following sections.

1

Poverty Reduction

The UNDAF has two main outcomes under this priority area. Approximately US$ 9.2 million was reported as spent in 2012-2016 to achieve results under the Poverty Reduction area. A total of 133 results were recorded during the reporting period. During the period 2012-2016 the UN continued to support national efforts to reduce poverty in the Islamic Republic of Iran. UN support was channelled mainly through capacity development followed by advocacy, knowledge products and policy making/planning (Figure 6).

FIGURE **6** **Number and Distribution of UNDAF Results in the Poverty Reduction Area per Programmatic Category of Technical Support**
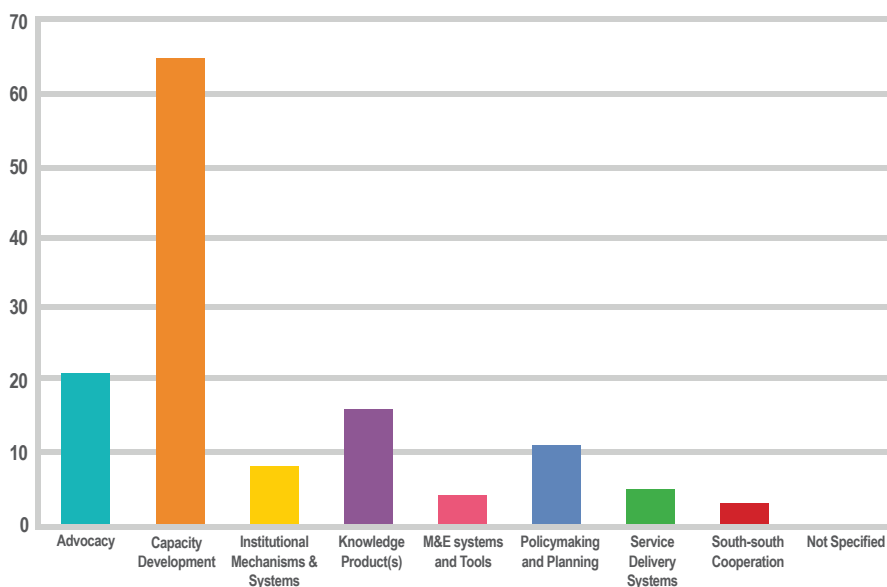
Outcome 1.1

Promote inclusive economic growth

UNFPA

EVIDENCE-BASED ANALYSIS FOR POLICY ADVOCACY ON POPULATION ISSUES

In collaboration with the National Institute for Population Studies and the University of Tehran, UNFPA prepared Iran's first-ever Population Situation Analysis (PSA). This was launched in July 2016. UNFPA, along with the University of Tehran, also prepared four policy papers on emerging population issues. These included issues such as: youth, ageing, female-headed households, urbanization and internal migration. The PSA and the series of policy papers contain concise policy recommendations and are currently being used by Iranian authorities. The reports were widely disseminated and introduced in various events among high level policy makers. This advocacy also led to the building of partnerships with the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare for a joint programme on ageing.

Ceremony for the launch of the Population Situation Analysis of Iran, July 2016.
From left: Mr. Gary Lewis, Dr. Farjadi , Dr. Maha El-Adawi, Dr. Mahmoudian, Dr. Abbasi, H.E. Mrs. Molaverdi, Dr. Kousheshi. Source: UNFPA Iran

● **Population issues**

The UN invested in a range of programmes and projects to create and expand economic opportunities as well as ensure broader access to these opportunities – especially for the poor and disadvantaged. The UN's work also aimed to support social protection to reduce poverty and vulnerability. For instance, the UN, in collaboration with the Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI) and the University of Tehran (UT), prepared a first-ever series of policy papers and analyses of the population situation. These products focused on major population issues in Iran such as the "youth bulge", the changing age structure, ageing and its economic implications and population and environmental issues. The report provided sound and reliable evidence for programming and decision-making in the areas of population and development as well as poverty reduction interventions.

● **Employment**

UN support led to a shift from conventional policy-making towards an inclusive growth approach in the area of employment. For instance, the UN-supported Job Creation programme was approved and recognized by the National Council in terms of "resilient" economy.

This programme will henceforth be implemented at provincial and local levels. Employment is now considered core to the economic policy process in relevant ministries and organizations. There was also a shift in the existing training systems by higher education towards more employment-oriented programmes.

The UN contributed to the establishment of a Labour Market Information Analysis (LMIA) System. This system provided a platform for effectively identifying employment opportunities. The Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare (MCLSW) has been custodian of the LMIA system and was responsible for bringing other national entities/organizations, including the Central Bank of Iran and the SCI, to cooperate more closely together.

The first official UN-supported Subcontracting and Partnership Exchange (SPX) Centre was established in Esfahan during the reporting period. The Centre provided subcontracting and matchmaking services to domestic firms. This increased opportunities for internationalization, investment promotion and targeting through the SPX UNIDO global network. The centre is, in future, expected to integrate the Esfahan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ECCIMA) into UNIDO's SPX global network.

● Natural resource management

Through its successful interventions, the UN established and up-scaled two nation-wide integrated models. These models effectively address natural resources management, empower local communities (including women and youth), reduce poverty and facilitate access to social services (health, education, etc.) at the local level. This is in addition to the UN's continued provision of technical assistance and financial support. The models empower women in local communities to support their families economically whilst integrating natural resource management and poverty reduction strategies.

● Health finance

The UN collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME) and the Tax Administration Organization to review and revise models for Tax and VAT systems on Tobacco and items hazardous to health. This led to more efficient health financing, financial risk protection, revenue mobilization and improvements in public health quality.

The MoHME, through its Health Transformation Plan (HTP), mobilized additional resources by earmarking 1% of VAT to health. Expanded health insurance coverage was provided to an additional 9 million Iranians with the support of the Iran Health Insurance Organization. This support effectively contributed to a reduction in the share of Out-of-Pocket (OOP) health expenditures from 53% to 40% in 2015. The UN intensively engaged in strategizing HTP interventions and provided policy advice based upon regular monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

● Child maltreatment

The UN promoted institutional capacities for implementing and coordinating effective programmes and advocacy. These included preventing child maltreatment. Partners included the Ministry of Justice, the MoHME, the State Welfare Organization, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), and various religious leaders. The MCLSW embarked on developing a nationally-owned measure of multidimensional poverty. The draft proposed measure is being discussed through consultation sessions at the national level. The measure will aim to monitor poverty at the population level as well as the child level.

A Technical Working Group for Inter-sectoral Coordination on child maltreatment was established under the National Body on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (NBCRC) in 2013. The main purpose of this working group was to strengthen national coordination on child maltreatment. It also aimed to promote a more effective and efficient approach to anticipating and preventing and managing child maltreatment. The process for establishing a national coordination mechanism for preventing child maltreatment was drafted under

UNICEF

PROMOTING BEST INTEREST OF CHILD IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDING

A youth speaks to a judge in a juvenile court.
Source: UNICEF Iran

Building on earlier joint efforts, Iran's Judiciary has partnered with UNICEF to raise awareness and knowledge about national standards and commitments for children in judicial proceedings among judges, prosecutors, lawyers and social workers. This collaboration resulted in a Master's course on "Criminal Law for Children" being launched in the University of Judicial Sciences in 2012. This was followed by a Master's programme on "Social Work with Children" developed in 2016. In the area of legislative reforms for children in judicial proceedings, some key provisions of the Bill on "Addressing Children and Adolescent's Crimes" of 2003 that was drafted by the Judiciary have found expression in Chapter 10 of the revised Islamic Penal Code of 2013and the revised Penal Procedural Code of 2015.

supervision of this Technical Working Group. Based on its Constitution, the NBCRC established a Coordination Council as the highest decision-making body within the NBCRC.
The Coordination Council comprised representatives of over 16 Government and NGOs.

The UN, in partnership with the MoHME, aimed to up-scale two successful pilot projects on child maltreatment. These projects related to prevention, early detection, and management of child maltreatment. However, in doing so some challenges were encountered. These were mainly in the form of slow implementation and follow-up by partners. During a significant part of the 2012-2016 programme cycle, the UN's partnership with the State Welfare Organization witnessed some challenges. These

were largely due to delays in signing joint workplans.

Encouragingly, the situation improved after late 2015. In many cases, implementation of programmes was impeded due to high management turnover within implementing partner organizations.

● **Macro-level socio-economic policies**
The UN engaged actively with entities that have relevant mandates to macro-level socio-economic policies and plans. These entities included the Planning and Budgeting Organization (PBO) and the MCLSW. However, since the macro-economy settings in Iran are complex, the UN was unable to provide direct policy support to develop Iran's draft 6th Five-Year NDP.

Outcome 1.2

Reduce capability poverty

The UN developed strong partnerships with government entities to gain a greater understanding of the country's needs, development experiences, and opportunities for better coordination and delivery. For Instance, the UN's partnership with the judiciary, law enforcement forces and prisons organization led to enhancing the justice system's capacity for protection of children in judicial proceedings.

● **Quality education**

The UN's partnership with the Ministry of Education contributed to enhancing institutional capacities of the Ministry of Education. One example is in the area of implementing child-focused, inclusive, quality-education plans for boys and girls in primary and secondary education. More specifically, the UN became an observing member of the Quality Education Committee (QEC) established in the Ministry of Education. This membership enabled the UN to lead the agenda on Quality Education and Contextualized Child

Friendly Schools. Through this, the QEC developed a national framework on quality education and key areas within it, including an M&E framework. However, some challenges were also faced in cooperating with some implementing partners during the period under review. In addition, the Literacy Movement Organization under the Ministry of Education has demonstrated increased capacity in the strengthening of Community Learning Centres, literacy assessment, promoting literacy through mobile learning, curriculum and materials development.

● **Rural community participation in natural resource management**

During the reporting period, the UN supported national and provincial capacities – in pilot sites – to support rural community participation in the management of natural resources. This took place in the poorest areas, especially where environmental degradation is most serious. One such example of community participation

UN-HABITAT

IRAN'S NATIONAL URBAN CAMPAIGN

UN-Habitat and Iran's National Habitat Committee jointly launched the Iran National Urban Campaign (INUC) on World Habitat Day (5 October 2015). INUC is the forth national urban campaign in the world. Its activities have resulted in the production of "The City Iranians Need" (TCIN), a concise report prepared with input from citizens across 48 cities and 10 organizations. INUC shared Iranians' vision with the world at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

2016 Urban dialogues, INUC. Source: UN-HABITAT Iran

UNESCO

PROMOTING
EDUCATION FOR ALL

Elderly man teaching a young child to read in Qazvin province. Source: UNESCO Iran

UNESCO has worked closely with the Literacy Movement Organization of Iran to expand literacy programmes and adult learning. This work aimed to strengthen inter-sectoral cooperation and participation of local communities, develop flexible learning strategies to reach the most marginalized persons, integrate the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to promote literacy and lifelong learning, and improve literacy assessment tools.

is the establishment and running of micro-credit schemes. These schemes, when implemented, created alternative livelihoods, gender empowerment and the rehabilitation of natural resources. They also strengthened the capacities of the communities in which they operated, to mitigate or adapt to climate change impact. Through the same initiatives, inter-village capacities at sub-district level, have been enhanced, both among men and women, to establish legally recognised cooperatives. The UN has supported the establishment of platforms for government bodies engaged in poverty reduction to coordinate among each other in order to provide social services. The entities involved include the MCLSW, Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, Bank Keshavarzi and the Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Organization (FRWO).

Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MDPI)
The MDPI has not yet been developed in Iran nor has it been applied in

policy and decision making. However, knowledge and best practices shared through UN interventions led to better insight and understanding of MDPI and its usefulness. This awareness facilitated incorporating the Index into future policies, programmes and practices.

Reducing export tax on processed products
The UN worked towards reducing export tax of processed products from saffron and extracts. To do so, it supported the formation of a National Policy Task force to set national policies for saffron and herbal products in view of its value chain. The value chain includes farming, processing and marketing.

Persons with disabilities
During the reporting period, the UN initiated drafting a National Plan of Action to introduce ICT accessibility policies for persons with disabilities.

2 Health

The UNDAF has four main outcomes under this priority area. Approximately US$ 43 million was recorded to have been spent in 2012-2016 to achieve results under the Health area. A total of 213 results were also reported. The UN support was channelled mainly through capacity development followed by service delivery, policy making and planning, and knowledge products (Figure 7). Among the four outcomes related to the health area, a very significant portion of the budget – US$ 38 million – was spent in Outcome 2.3, Reducing Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases (Figure 8).

FIGURE 7 Number and Distribution of UNDAF Results in the Health Area per Programmatic Category of Technical Support
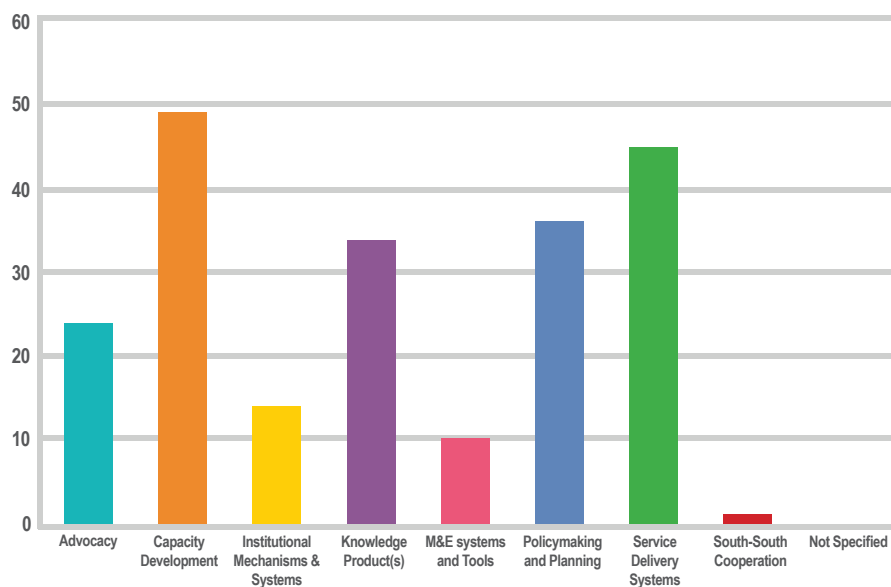
FIGURE

8

UNDAF Expenditure in US$ (millions) in the Health Area, per Health Outcome

WHO

## IMPLEMENTING THE HEALTH TRANSFORMATION PLAN

WHO has engaged with Iran's Ministry of Health and Medical Education to support the country's efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The overarching aim of the Health Transformation Plan (HTP) is to achieve UHC by the year 2025. The HTP has been successful in extending health insurance to an additional 9.3 million Iranians. This means a reduction in out-of-pocket expenditures, which Iranians have to pay for health services. During the reporting period this figure reduced from 53% to under 40%. The HTP has also upgraded public sector hospitals across the country. The achievement of UHC will improve population health and thus contribute to a healthier work force and reduced poverty across Iran.

WHO in collaboration with MoHME conducted several trainings on hospital management for the public sector. Source: WHO Iran

Outcome 2.3	Outcome 2.4	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2
38.0	0.42	3.8	0.67
89%	1%	9%	1%
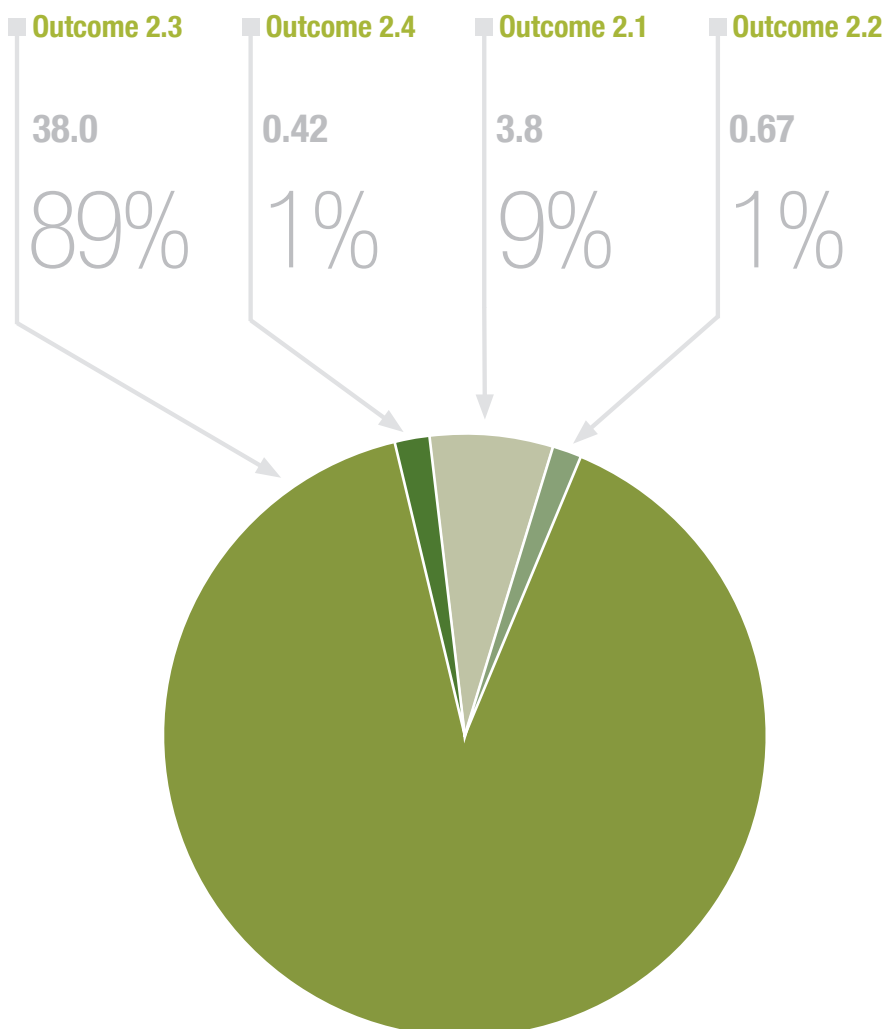
Strengthened capacities for health systems on Primary Health Care (PHC) apply Social Determinants of Health (SDH) approach in health systems

Outcome 2.1

● **Maternal health**
During the reporting period, with the support of the UN, the status of maternal health in Iran has improved. This was made possible through the implementation of the mother-friendly hospital initiative in all public-sector hospitals of the country. It is in these hospitals that the UN has supported the development of guidelines and protocols.

● **Support to the Health Transformation Plan (HTP)**
Following the adoption of the HTP in 2014, the UN provided continued support, particularly for the improvement of health care financing. The main area of attention was how to reduce OOP expenditure for in-patient care in hospitals and how to expand coverage to over 9 million

people. Furthermore, the UN helped to strengthen national capacity of the MoHME to develop evidence-informed policies on child health and nutrition. This was achieved through a partnership with UNICEF and the academic community.

Finally, the UN's partnership with MoHME contributed to the transfer of global knowledge and best practices to improve the quality of modelling, initiatives, skills and technical knowledge in the area of Integrated Early Childhood Development (ECD) services.

Outcome 2.2

Primary Health Care (PHC) for most-at-risk populations

The UN supported the monitoring and evaluation of the Family Medicine programme. The programme was initiated in 2 provinces – Mazandaran and Fars.

The UN recommended scaling-up the Family Medicine programme as part of the HTP. Subsequently, the scale-up programme was launched in 8 provinces. An example of subsequent work is the UN's assistance in scaling-up Primary Health Care coverage of workers. This was achieved by focusing on

informal workforces and by developing multi-sectoral strategies. However, during the programme cycle there was a shift in the mode of engagement expected of the UN at a global level for upper middle income countries. This meant that instead of a strong focus on capacity building, there is now a greater emphasis on supporting initiatives on advocacy and generating policy dialogue. This development hindered progress in achieving some of the earlier-agreed results which could have had a significant impact on capacity-building.

UNAIDS

LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL PREVENTING-MOTHER-TO-CHILD-TRANSMISSION PROGRAMME

Mother-to-child-transmission of HIV involves the spread of HIV from an HIV-infected woman to her child during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding. UNAIDS mobilised technical, financial and communications resources of its UN partners to support the launch of

an evidence-based national Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme, and encouraged incorporating it into the 4th National Strategic Plan. UNAIDS and its UN partners successfully advocated the inclusion of a provider-initiated testing

approach and adoption of Option B+ (lifelong antiretroviral treatment for pregnant women living with HIV) within the national PMTCT and treatment guidelines. More than 156,000 pregnant women have so far been screened by the programme and 98.5 per cent of potentially affected children have been born free of HIV.

A workshop on PMTCT. Source: UNAIDS Iran

Outcome 2.3

Reduce Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases

● **The overall work of the Global Fund**

During the reporting period, the UN provided significant support to Centres for Communicable Diseases Control (CCDCs) to implement Iran's National Strategic Plan (NSP). The UN's work in support of this included developing the national Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) strategy and delivering the GF programmes to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. The UN's GF programme provided numerous trainings and considerable service delivery support to NGOs. There are now a total of 25 HIV-Positive Clubs in place that are implemented by NGOs under the supervision of the provincial Universities of Medical Sciences (UMS). The GF's nationwide programme to combat and eliminate malaria focused on 11 at-risk provinces. These included remote and poor areas in Sistan and Baluchistan, Kerman and Hormuzgan provinces.

● **HIV/AIDS**

Iran submitted regular, timely data to the UN annually as part of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) / Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting (GARPR) processes. However, no formal evaluation of Iran's 3rd NSP has been conducted. One of the key gaps identified by the National AIDS Council's Monitoring & Evaluation subcommittee is the virtual absence of output monitoring data for the NSP3 cycle. The National AIDS Control Programme cannot therefore provide the information needed to report against this UNDAF indicator. This gap is being addressed by the M&E subcommittee in its development of the M&E framework and calendar for the newly-endorsed NSP4.

An externally reviewed HIV treatment analysis, influenced significant change in the approach of the national programme on care and treatment and case finding. This is reflected in the NSP4 which is fully in line with the 90-90-90 goals. That is: to ensure that 90% of people living with HIV know their status, and that 90% of people living with HIV who know their status receive treatment, and that 90% of people receiving treatment achieve suppressed viral loads. The 4th NSP aims to achieve the 90-90-90 targets.

The GF's programme to combat HIV/AIDS supported the implementation of both NPS3 and NSP4. In total, the work of the UN during the reporting period reached over 1.3 million Iranians from different groups including HIV Vulnerable Women (HVW), prisoners, Injecting Drug Users (IDUs), students and other high-risk and

UNAIDS

ALIGNMENT OF THE 4th NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN WITH THE GLOBAL 90-90-90 GOALS

In order to support the national HIV response, UNAIDS mobilised resources to advocate for and support the National AIDS Control Programme. The result was an ambitious multi-sectoral National Strategic Plan – which, in itself, is a crucial first step towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. The 4th National Strategic Plan aims to achieve the 90-90-90 targets. These are that 90% of people living with HIV should know their status; that 90% of people living with HIV who know their status should be receiving treatment; and that 90% of people on treatment have suppressed viral loads. If this approach is followed, according to UNAIDS, the disease will be transformed into a low-level sporadic endemic.

UNICEF

YOUNG CHILD SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT

UNICEF, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, has worked to improve neo-natal care of pre-term infants. The Newborn Individualized Developmental Care and Assessment Program (NIDCAP) is a comprehensive approach aimed at supporting infant developmental care. The programme supports shorter intensive care and overall stays in hospital, ensures better weight gain, and improves behavioural outcomes as well as brain structure and function. It has been considered a global gold standard initiative and has been integrated into the National Health System. The Ministry of Health and Medical Education, in partnership with UNICEF, has been integrating the NIDCAP approach into neo-natal intensive care units across Iran.

Public awareness campaign on HIV in Tehran. Source: UNAIDS Iran

Founder of NIDCAP approach, Professor Heidelise Als, visits the NICU ward of a hospital in Tehran where NIDCAP is piloted. Source: UNICEF Iran

WHO

SHIFTING FOCUS TO NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

With the technical support of WHO, Iran has developed a comprehensive multi-sectoral national plan for the prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). WHO is actively monitoring progress, supporting capacity building initiatives and helping to operationalize the plan to provincial levels, and to build partnership with stakeholders. It is expected that the NCDs plan will contribute to both higher life-expectancy and a higher quality of life in Iran. Based on sound performance in relation to NCDs, Iran has been selected by WHO as one of the "fast-track countries" to guide the global response. Iran is expected to report its progress on the agreed global NCDs targets to the UN General Assembly in 2018.

IRAPEN, a national initiative for screening Non-Communicable-Diseases in Iran. Source: WHO Iran

at-risk populations. It did so by providing training programmes and advocacy materials, establishing 140 harm reduction Centres nation-wide as well as providing hotline counselling services. UN-delivered HIV prevention programmes reached 40% of HVW and reduced the number of vulnerable women living with AIDS from 5% to 2%. UN interventions increased the percentage of pregnant women living with HIV who received anti-retrovirals (in order to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission) from 90% in 2014 to 96%.

The percentage of infants born to women living with HIV and who had received a virological test for HIV within two months of their birth, increased from 37% to 66% during the reporting period. In line with the HTP, the MoHME launched the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme in the most marginalized areas of the country. The UN's partnership reinforced adolescent-focused HIV prevention models. This model is one of the main strategies used to reduce HIV transmission at the national level.

● Malaria

The UN supported evidence-based policy making to strengthen Iran's National Malaria Elimination Programme. This was achieved, for example, by revising the NSP based on a programme review, providing support on master-level trainings of field staff, strengthening surveillance systems, mapping pesticide resistance and improving diagnostic capacities. Examples of UN support include the fact that the number of laboratory-confirmed autochthonous falciparum malaria cases witnessed in health facilities in target districts reduced significantly from 141 in 2010 to 22 in 2016. The number of laboratory-confirmed autochthonous malaria cases seen in health facilities in target districts was also reduced from 1,474 in 2010 to 101 in 2016. The UN strengthened the national Tuberculosis (TB) programme capacity in response to drug resistant

TB. To do so, the UN supported the development of national MDR-TB protocol, conducted training, facilitated inter-country dialogue between Iran and neighbouring countries and provided technical support in conducting a resistance survey.

● Polio

In line with the Polio Global Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013-2018, Iran switched Polio Vaccination from trivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (tOPV) to bivalent OPV (bOPV).

Since 2016, the type 2 component (OPV2) has been removed from the immunization programme. Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) was introduced in its place. However, the National Polio Programme is suffering from a global shortage of IPV production.

● Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

The health profile of Iran is changing to feature health conditions related to lifestyle choices (e.g., cancers, heart diseases, strokes, diabetes and chronic lung diseases). With regard to NCDs, technical and advocacy support of the UN resulted in national political commitment being made at cabinet level. The result was an endorsed national multi-sectoral plan for NCDs control and prevention (2015-2025). A national NCDs committee was established in the health sector to lead planning and interventions. Subsequently, several policy-level interventions were implemented on targeted risk factors with technical support from the UN. Iran has itself prioritized the need to respond to NCDs as a public health concern. In line with this, the UN is supporting Iran to present its progress to the UN General Assembly in 2018. With the support of the UN, mental health in Primary Healthcare was strengthened by adapting UN global Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP)[9] guides and training packages and integrating these into primary healthcare systems.

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9. The WHO mhGAP aims at scaling-up services for mental, neurological and substance use disorders for countries, especially those which are low- and middle-income.

UNDP
COMBATTING HIV/AIDS

Using resources from the Global Fund, UNDP played a significant role in facilitating an inclusive country dialogue for the development of Iran's National Strategic Plan (NSP4). During 2012-2016, a total number of 907,328 rapid test kits were provided to implementing partners. To strengthen HIV diagnosis capacity 11 sub-national laboratories were equipped with state of the art diagnostic instruments. On the basis of this progress, the UN was in a position to successfully advocate for Iran to adopt the 90-90-90 strategy. Iran is the only country in the Middle East and North Africa region to do so. The figures comparing the baseline from 2012 with the situation at the end of 2016 show remarkable progress as follows:

HIV: Impact of UNDP intervention in Iran using Global Fund resources		
Intervention area	2012 (in % terms)	2016 (in % terms)
People who inject drugs reached with service package	10	40
Vulnerable women receiving HIV testing	11	15
People living with HIV receiving counseling and psycho-social support services (*)	4	31
HIV-positive people receiving ARV therapy (*)	4	11

(*) - Note: numbers represent an estimation of the percentage of people who live with HIV

UNDP
ELIMINATING MALARIA

During 2012-2016, the Global Fund malaria control programme was at work in 11 at risk provinces. As a result of UNDP-supported technical assistance and service delivery, the number of laboratory-confirmed autochthonous malaria cases fell by 92% from 2012 to 2016. During the same period, the number of autochthonous falciparum malaria cases fell by 85%. UNDP's contribution during the past decade has led to effectively ridding Iran of malaria.

Anopheline mosquito.
Source: Google images

Outcome 2.4

Health of disaster-affected populations

With the support of the UN, a safety review of all hospitals was undertaken between 2012-2015 using the WHO's Hospital Safety Index. Subsequently, a hospital emergency preparedness and response plan was developed. A similar initiative was also carried out to assess the safety level of primary care facilities.

The UN supported the integration of Reproductive Health (RH) concepts into sectoral and national plans. It did so in collaboration with the MoHME and the IRCS. In this way, the UN was able to develop operational plans and guidelines which now make clear references to the RH needs of affected populations.

Iran is the only country in the region that announced that it would implement the International Health Regulation's (IHR 2005) core capacities by June 2015. This was in line with the commitment made by countries to build capacities which would allow them to detect, assess and report public health events and work together for global health security. The UN supported this effort. However, there were instances where management turnover at the MoHME hindered implementation. This led to delays in achieving results.

3 Environmentally Sustainable Development

The UNDAF has one outcome under this priority area. Approximately US$ 27 million was recorded to have been spent in 2012-2016 for achieving results under the Environmentally Sustainable Development area. A total of 71 results were recorded during the reporting period. The UN support was channelled mainly through capacity development followed by policy making and planning, and knowledge products (Figure 9).

FIGURE 9

Number and Distribution of UNDAF Results in the Environmentally Sustainable Development Area per Programmatic Category of Technical Support
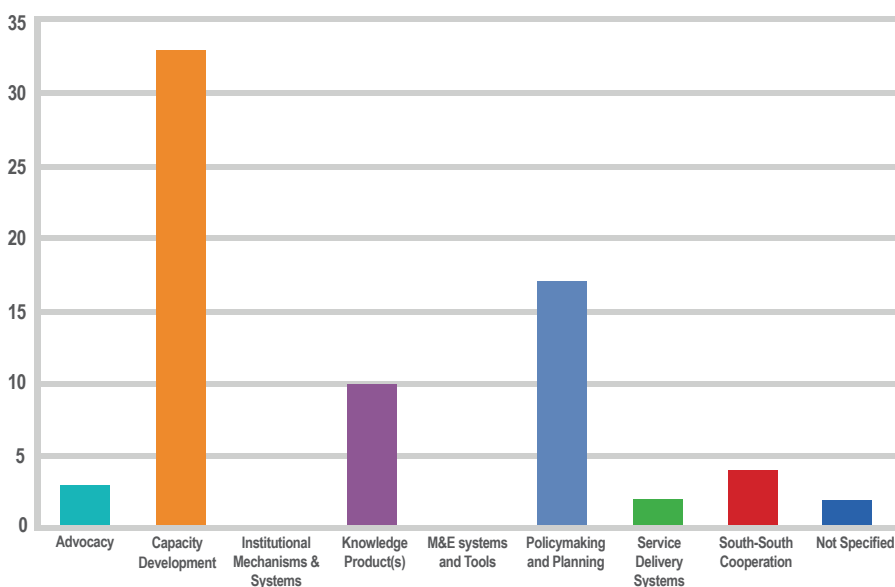
Outcome 3.1

Capacity development at national, sub-national and local levels

Overview

During the reporting period the UN strengthened its partnership with counterpart government institutions. This created a platform for effective engagement and contribution towards addressing environmental sustainability in Iran. The UN provided technical assistance, policy advice and financial support to develop models and frameworks in addressing environmental challenges. These have been piloted, improved and scaled-up across the country. A number of important areas were covered: (1) the Central Zagros Development Strategy, (2) an Ecosystems-Based Management Model, (3) Broad-Based Integrated Management Planning (IMP), (4) a "Green Development Strategy" (awaiting technical approval of the Forest High Council and final ratification by Governor Generals of Caspian provinces), (5) an Integrated Natural Resources Management Model, (6) Wetland Management Action Plans (awaiting ratification of the Cabinet and will be considered a law afterwards) and (7) an Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Conserving Asiatic Cheetah and its prey in arid and semi-arid ecosystems of central Iran.

Water resource management

In various occasions and through a number of trainings, the UN shared global experiences in the sustainable management and use of water resources, particularly the restoration of groundwater resources. In addition, the importance of traditional water management systems, known as qanats, was recognised by the government and the President's office.

Subsequently, the UN attempted to draw attention to the need to elevate the concept that qanats should be restored as part of an overall effort to improve the water supply system in Iran (where it currently only accounts for around 10% of water availability).

Ecosystem-based management approaches

The ecosystem-based management approach was applied in four different terrestrial ecosystems in the country. These are: (1) the Hyrcanian Forest areas in northern Iran, (2) numerous wetlands across the country, (3) arid/semi-arid ecosystems of central Iran in order to reverse deforestation and

UNDP

LAKE URMIA TURNS THE CORNER AND STARTS TO FILL UP AGAIN

UNDP has been heavily involved in interventions to save Lake Urmia. Life is now starting to return to this once-dying salt lake in north-west Iran. Today the water is spread thin, but it is covering around half of the lake. UNDP has worked with local farmers, provincial and national governments and others to initiate an adaptation process by implementing "integrated participatory crop management". With financial support from the Japanese government, as well as the Iranian government's own resources, this technique has been successfully implemented in 90 villages (10% of the irrigated farming area) in the Lake Urmia Basin. This is expected to save about one-third of the water that would otherwise have been used for farming under the old practices. The result is a saving of 30 per cent of the water which can now flow back into the lake.

Lake Urmia photographed in 2017 – the lake is refilling with water. Source: UNDP Iran

FAO

CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE: ADAPTING QUINOA

Across the Middle East and North Africa region, climate change has been linked to a hotter and drier climate. This has affected agriculture, causing food insecurity, and affecting the poor most of all. FAO is trying to transform this threat into an opportunity. Drawing upon its knowledge, FAO started experimenting with quinoa, a crop which is loaded with nutrients, and has proven to be an important alternative to traditional crops. The FAO Quinoa Project started in Iran in December 2013. Following extensive fieldwork in Karaj, Ahwaz, Iranshahr, Jiroft and Kahnouj, the crop was found to be very adaptable to Iran's conditions. Quinoa was introduced to Iranian farmers in subsequent cropping seasons.

Experts study a quinoa pilot farm in Khuzestan Province. Source: FAO Iran

UNIDO

ENERGY-EFFICIENCY IN KEY INDUSTRIAL SECTORS

UNIDO, in partnership with the Iranian Fuel Conservation Company, and with funding from the Global Environment Facility is promoting sustainable energy management in Iran with across five energy-intensive industrial sectors: bricks, cement, iron and steel, oil refineries and petrochemicals. Among the achievements is an energy saving which has been equivalent to 365,000 barrels of oil and emission reductions of 74,000 tons of CO_2.

UNIDO promotes sustainable energy management in Iran. Source: UNIDO Iran

FAO

MANAGING TRANSBOUNDARY PESTS

The tomato borer (*Tuta absoluta*) is one of the most damaging and mobile transboundary pests. It reached the Middle East from South America via Europe and North Africa. The pest first appeared in Iran in October 2010. In less than one year, 26 provinces in the country had been affected. Its main target is tomatoes – one of the major vegetable crops produced in Iran. In response, FAO developed a project across the Middle East in 2012 to monitor the pest and produce guidelines for pest detection and control. In Iran, the project helped minimize the damage of the tomato borer by developing healthy tomato transplants. FAO provided technical knowledge to national professionals and practitioners for building and maintaining safe greenhouses and promoting fully-automatic tomato-planting machines. The work of FAO led to some 600 Iranian experts and 740 local farmers being trained on how to effectively produce tomatoes and manage the pests.

desertification, and (4) Conservation in the Zagros Mountains to the west of Iran. The ecosystem-based management approach promotes engagement with local communities and other stakeholders under an IMP model. The efficient use of wetland resources was tested in at least 17 Wetland Protected Areas (WPAs).

Following the success of the model, it was up-scaled on a national basis.

● **Protected areas**
The UN introduced and supported improved protected area management models in 2 arid and semi-arid protected

areas. These were piloted in Community Conservation Areas (CCAs).

● **UNESCO Biosphere Reserves**
The UNESCO Biosphere Reserves Concept was adopted by the Department of Environment (DoE) of Iran as a pivotal tool in environmental conservation. This tool was used in addressing natural resources management, and the conservation of biodiversity, particularly in preserving the Hamoun Lakes.

● **Participatory approaches**
The UN also supported local communities – as well as provincial and local institutions – to plan, implement

and evaluate participatory and integrated Sustainable Land and Forest Management (SLFM) initiatives.

These initiatives were targeted at the village and watershed levels. They were based on practical solutions addressing immediate and long term socio-economic needs. Such mechanisms included the Participatory Village Resource Management Council (PVRMC), Village Councils (VC), SLFM Village Level Plan (VLP) and the Watershed Level Plan (WLP). Policy and regulatory changes also supported these participatory approaches. All stakeholder groups, including local communities, were invited to engage in managing biodiversity and natural resources. Such interventions were piloted and up-scaled in over 45 areas in 22 of Iran's 31 provinces. All interventions used integrated models through which poverty/economic issues and environmental affairs were addressed. This led to, among other things, the empowerment of local communities including women and youth.

● **Valuation of natural resources**
The UN, through its interventions, helped to improve 4 Energy Information Administration (EIA) guidelines. These guidelines were used for assessing the development of projects by different sectors in the mountainous ecosystems of the Central Zagros. In line with this, 2 different models for valuation of natural resources (ecosystem services) were developed and implemented. Over 20,000 people from rural communities participated in natural resources management in over 45 pilots across the country.

● **Sand and dust storms**
The UN also contributed to controlling local sources of dust storms by supporting the management of wind erosion hot-spots in 20 provinces.

● **Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)**
The UN contributed towards efforts to lead effective management of chemicals – specifically ODSs. By implementing the first phase of the

national roadmap, the UN contributed to Iran's phasing out of 29.3 tons of Ozone Depleting Potentials (ODP) of Hydro-Chloro-Fluro-Carbons (HCFCs) by end 2016. This was achieved by providing financial resources and facilitating the transfer of ozone-friendly equipment into the country. The UN assisted in finalizing the development of the second phase of the roadmap for reducing HCFC consumption in Iran. In addition, the UN introduced new technology. Such inputs not only brought positive environmental impacts but also increased the efficiency of refrigerators and the overall industry competitiveness. In line with the work towards the Montreal Protocol, 50% of HCFC-141b has been phased-out in Iran. The ODS, HCFC-141b, has been replaced

UNIDO

REDUCING IRAN's OUTPUT OF OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES

UNIDO's work on the Montreal Protocol has contributed to the phasing-out of a large percentage of hydro-chloro-fluro-carbons (specifically HCFC-141b), which used to be produced in Iran. The ozone depleting substance (HPMP-141b) has also been replaced by cyclopentane – a 'natural' blowing agent with zero ozone depleting potential. The positive environmental impact of the new technology has also increased the energy efficiency of refrigerators. Additionally, the work of both UNIDO and the German Development Agency (GIZ), has led to technology transfer and the creation of new jobs and technical skills.

Renewing technologies in Iran's factories to help support the phase-out of HCFCs.
Source: UNIDO Iran

by cyclopentane. Cyclopentane is a "natural" blowing agent with no ODP. Subsequently, nearly 500 tonnes per year of HCFC-141b were phased-out.

● Energy efficiency

The UN contributed to engendering a culture of "energy efficiency" for staff in certain segments of the industry sector. This was achieved through programmes aimed at promoting communication, awareness-raising and attitude change programmes. Five Energy Efficiency dialogues occurred, involving over 550 industries' engineering staff across several provinces. Extensive on-site training was carried out on energy management system standards in seven industrial sectors. This was the first time that such training was provided in Iran. According to UNIDO, the results of the training were measured and the "saved energy" was assessed to be the equivalent to 365,000 barrels of oil and 74,000 tons of CO_2 in terms of reduced carbon emissions.
In addition to this, with the support of the UN, practical compressed air system optimization training was carried out for energy experts and industries for the very first time in Iran.

Market-based policy instruments in carbon emission trading and energy efficiency were also presented for the first time to the Iranian government. Efforts by the UN in support of the government's programme, led to the phasing out of 345 tons of the ODS, HCFC-141b in 19 companies, 11 of which were by the UN, and 8 by GIZ.

● Climate change

With technical and financial support from the UN, Iran's Third National Communication to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was developed and finalized. This information depicted the seriousness of the extent, nature, pattern of anticipated challenges to Iran's environment posed by the onset of climate change. The UN supported Iran's efforts to develop its capacity across various sectors to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

Such efforts covered the following sectors: agriculture, natural resource management, forestry, fisheries, livestock management, and water resources management. One result was the recorded training of more than 13,000 Iranians on implementing relevant practices. Additionally, knowledge products and SOPs were developed to operationalize and coordinate community-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Over the review cycle, the first wind erosion monitoring station in Iran was established. The station currently helps local populations monitor the impact of rehabilitation activities on wind erosion reduction. Degraded landscapes were rehabilitated to ensure a sustainable supply of ecological goods and services and to promote sustainable land-use and livelihoods practices.

● Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)

The UN also provided support to the Government in developing a national strategy and action plan for mitigating GHGs and adapting to climate change. With the UN's support, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was agreed between the Ministry of Industry and the Austrian Institute of Technology (under the Austrian Ministry of Environment). This MoU seeks to implement a Systemic Intervention towards a Low-Carbon Transformation in the industrial sector in Iran. This is expected to lead to the development of policies that will generate synergies and have a combined impact on employment generation, CO_2 emission reduction, environmental protection and competitiveness.

● Pesticides and pollutants

With the support of GEF funding and collaboration with the MoHME, obsolete pesticides (like DDT) were successfully eliminated. This was achieved through, for instance, an efficient solid waste management system which has been established in Khalilshahr in Mazandaran based on community based initiatives. The scaling-up of the water safety plan led to water safety improvements in 12 districts.

4 Natural Disaster Management

The UNDAF has three outcomes under this priority area. Approximately US$ 1.9 million was recorded as having been spent during 2012-2016 for achieving results under the area of Natural Disaster Management. A total of 62 results were recorded during the reporting period. UN support was channelled mainly through capacity development (Figure 10).

FIGURE 10 Number and Distribution of UNDAF Results in the Natural Disaster Management Area per Programmatic Category of Technical Support
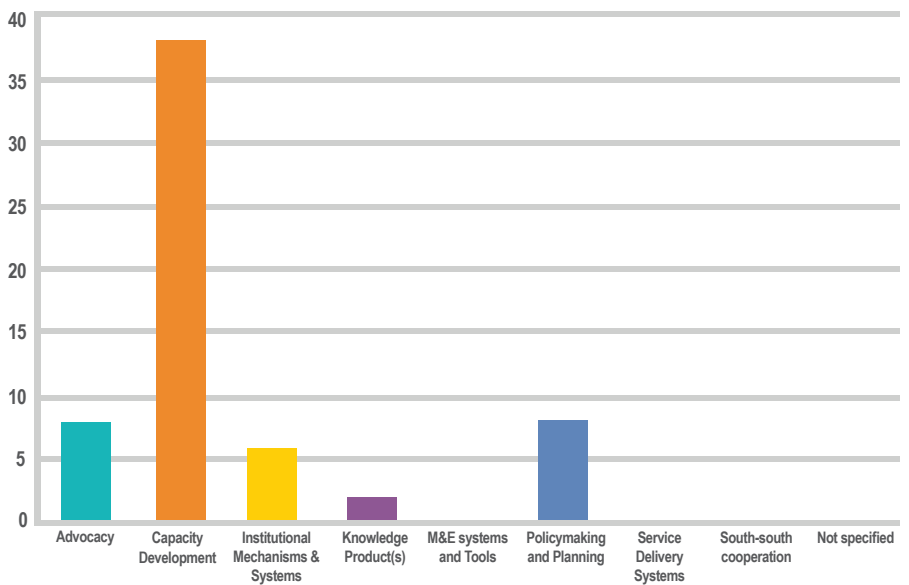
In collaboration with the UN, Iran's PBO identified and developed strategies, regulations, and indicators for disaster risk reduction. These informed national development planning in two sectors – education and urban and rural development. The UN supported the Tehran Disaster Management and Mitigation Organization (TDMMO) in developing and annually updating the Tehran Earthquake Risk Reduction Management Plan. This was achieved using a multi sectoral approach. The UN also supported the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) in developing

national standards for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) including for the training and evaluation of DRM managers and experts at all levels. The standards were approved by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and subsequently implemented by NDMO. With the UN's support, a joint national coordination mechanism was established with the participation of 25 DRM related agencies. As a result, and in accordance with their mandates, 80% of DRM-relevant agencies secured financial resources to address DRM. The UN supported NDMO by providing technical assistance to: (i) integrate Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) concepts in the 6th

NDP; (ii) develop a national DRRM Strategy and Action Plan; and (iii) move towards resilient rural and urban areas. This will be achieved through the completion of studies on a baseline situation gap analysis and needs assessment, and hazards and vulnerabilities in key DRM related sectors.

The UN provided financial support and technical assistance to develop a national model for disaster risk assessment in urban areas. This aimed to ensure effective prevention, response and recovery from disasters. Support was also provided in designing the Tehran Earthquake Risk Reduction and Management Plan. Subsequently, a

Seismic Risk Assessment was conducted successfully in Gorgan City. Further to this, TDMMO added 2 new modules to the Tehran earthquake damage and loss estimation software. These additional modules addressed seismic damage estimation to hospitals and roads.

The UN's support also contributed to regional efforts in which Iran initiated cooperation between four cluster countries – Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, and Iran. This was achieved through a regional training programme aimed at integrating media into national disaster management systems.

UN-HABITAT

CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DISASTER-RISK MANAGEMENT

Iran sits atop several major fault lines making it one of the most seismically-active countries in the world. UN-Habitat and relevant ministries and organizations in Iran jointly organized a series of training courses aimed at developing capacity in various fields under UN-HABITAT's mandate. During 2015-2016, 440 experts and decision makers were trained on issues related to urban resiliency, disaster risk management and sustainable development. A new plan aims to train 1,500 experts by the end of 2017.

UNESCO

STRENGTHENING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Each year, UNESCO supports the organization of the annual International Conference on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering. As a member of the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector, UNESCO also provided support to enhance school safety in Iran. The Second Safe School Leaders Meeting took place in Tehran on 4-5 October 2015. It discussed how Governments could translate their school safety commitments into concrete actions at national and local levels. UNESCO also supported the annual national earthquake and safety drill in schools in Iran and invited officials from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkmenistan to participate in this exercise and learn from Iran's experience.

UNFPA

YOUTH EMPOWERED TO ENGAGE WITH DISASTER-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

All across Iran, UNFPA has implemented a joint project with the Youth Organization of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS). Its purpose: to raise awareness and improve capacity of IRCS Youth Organization members on issues related to reproductive health during disasters. UNFPA supported the production of a youth friendly curricula based on the internationally-recognized Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) guidelines. The MISP is a series of crucial actions required to respond to reproductive health needs following the onset of a humanitarian crisis. Using this package, UNFPA supported training workshops in various provinces. Over a total of 3 years, more than 500 youth members and more than 80 facilitators were trained. This initiative has been fully taken on board by the IRCS Youth Organization and regular training continues to be conducted across all provinces.

DRR training, Urban Renewal Organization, 2016. Source: UN-HABITAT Iran

Poster of "Media and ICTs Solutions for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction" workshop. Source: UNESCO Iran

Participants of Training-of-Trainers on Reproductive Health in Crisis. Source: UNFPA Iran

5

Drug Control and Prevention

The UNDAF has four main outcomes under this priority area. Combined UN spending in the area of drug control and prevention was approximately US$ 6.9 million was recorded to have been spent to achieve the results indicated below. A total of 78 results were recorded during the reporting period. UN support was channelled mainly through capacity development followed by service delivery (Figure 11). Among the four outcomes related to the Drug Control and Prevention area, a major portion of the budget was spent under Outcomes 5.1 and 5.4, Community-Based Prevention and Trafficking, respectively (Figure 12).
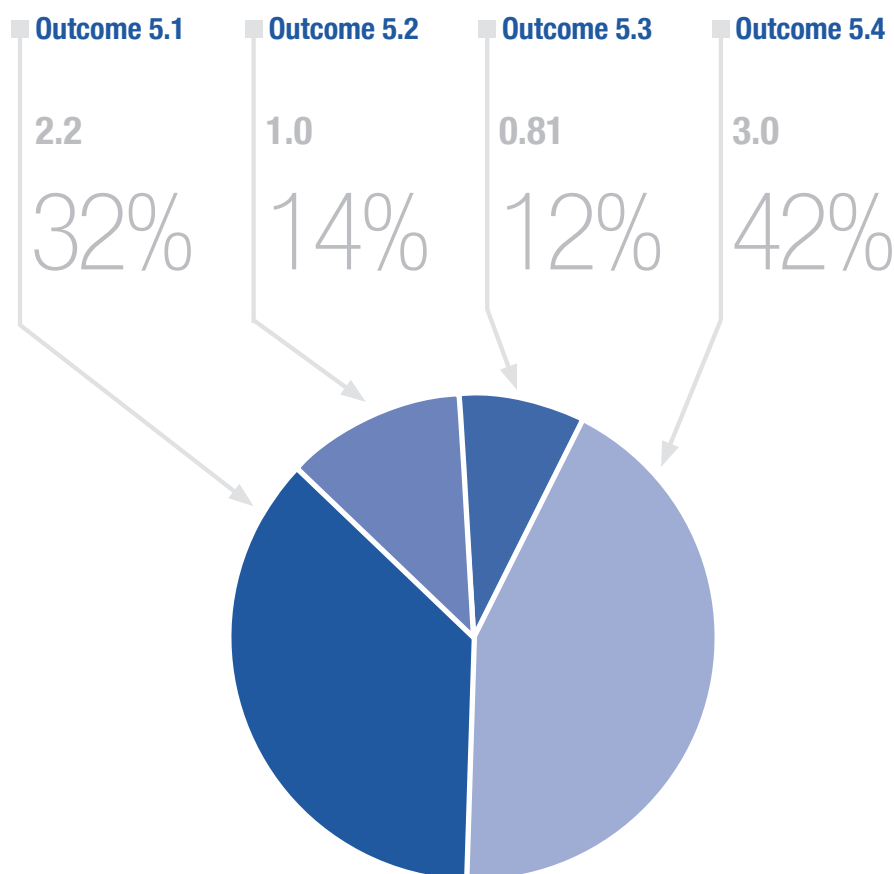
FIGURE **11** Number and Distribution of UNDAF Results in the Drug Control and Prevention Area per Programmatic Category of Technical Support
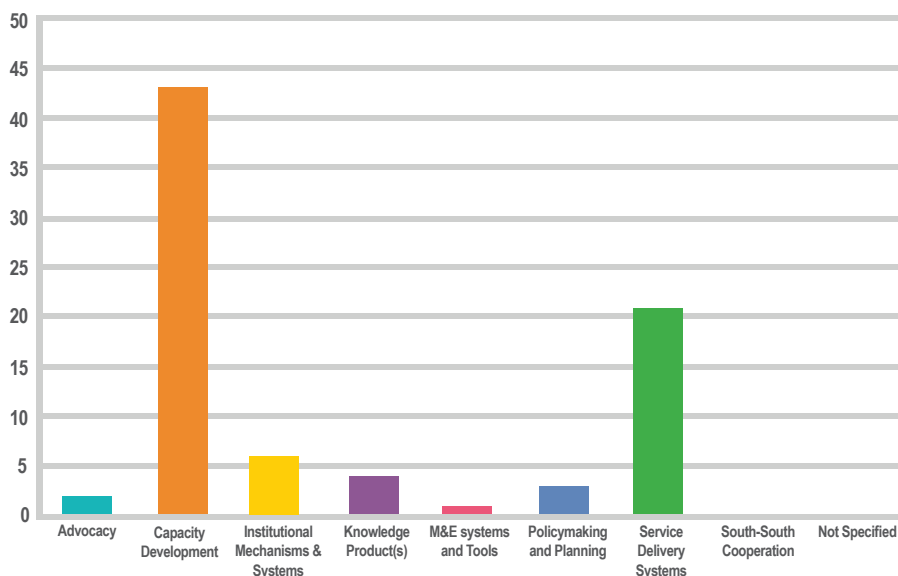
FIGURE 12

UNDAF Expenditure in US$ (millions) in the Drug Control and Prevention Area, per Outcome

■ **Outcome 5.1**   ■ **Outcome 5.2**   ■ **Outcome 5.3**   ■ **Outcome 5.4**

2.2   1.0   0.81   3.0

32%   14%   12%   42%

Community-based prevention

Outcome 5.1

In support of Government of Iran's policies, the UN developed and introduced a number of drug prevention programmes during the reporting period. These included the drug prevention among spouses of drug users and efforts to strengthen schools' programmes. Most of these efforts have subsequently been taken up by the Government of Iran for much wider implementation under government funding. The Families and Schools Together (FAST) family prevention programme, originally developed in the UK, was adapted to Iranian conditions and launched by the UN. It is now being considered for long-term and country-wide implementation by the Government of Iran.

The support of the UN led to community-based prevention activities being introduced in schools, universities, and various communities at large. These initiatives focused on various populations including families, students and spouses of drug users. Compared with 2012, substantial progress has been made in community-based prevention. The number and level of engagement by the main drug prevention interlocutors have both increased – notably within the Ministry of Education and MoHME. In terms of its drug abuse prevention approaches, Iran is now moving from spoken interventions to implementing drug

prevention programmes. Instead of using intuitively-developed (and often not-evidence-based) programmes, an increasing number of programmes are now evidence-based. These are mainly primary prevention programmes which are properly planned prior to implementation. It is promising to note that the geographical scope and coverage of prevention programmes in various provinces has also increased. There is now a much higher focus on skills training – especially life skills and parenting skills training programmes.

Outcome 5.2

Treatment and rehabilitation

The work of the UN contributed to a strengthening of the response in the areas of drug treatment and rehabilitation. For instance, the UN supported the improvement of Iran's response to addressing the increased use of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS). In line with this, the "Brief Intervention on ATS" guidelines were developed and piloted. The success of this pilot led to it being considered for wider use in PHC situations bolstered by government funding. Encouragingly, the government acknowledged the need for non-pharmacological interventions, rehabilitation and psychosocial interventions, and has tailored interventions for the treatment of young people and women who use drugs. The government is now starting to launch programmes in the aforementioned areas.

Outcome 5.3

HIV among Injecting Drug Users (IDUs)

The work of the UN to support the Government of Iran led to the successful launch of new programmes addressing drug-related HIV transmission. Such interventions included programmes on HIV prevention among spouses of drug users in the community and improved TB/HIV programmes in the penitentiary system – often a major incubator for the spread of the virus among IDUs. The main focus of the programmes on HIV prevention among affected populations

UNODC

"Now I think about myself, about my health and my life!"

Azam, a mother of two was forced to raise her children single-handedly after her husband was imprisoned. Her husband was a drug addict. Single and desperate, Azam herself also contemplated taking drugs. But a UNODC course on drug preventing training helped her cope with the stress: "I have even started working and earning money. I think about myself, about my health and my life. I have accepted the reality of life." Azam's husband is now pardoned and has been released from prison. While he still uses drugs, Azam is using her knowledge and experience to try to help him quit. Training for spouses of drug users was carried out in 14 provinces by UNODC, by funding from Norway, Germany and Sweden.

Training of trainers, Mashhad, 2012. Source: UNODC Iran

UNODC

POLICE DOGS CONTRIBUTE IN 15 PER CENT OF DRUG SEIZURE CASES IN IRAN

Iran has been responsible for seizing over 80% of the total opium and 32% of heroin seized in the world. UNODC

Anti-narcotics police K9 unit. Source: UNODC Iran

is providing the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police with drug detecting dogs, and assistance in training dogs and handlers on searching for narcotics. In 2014, the Iranian law enforcement seized over 500 tons of different drugs. This included over 13 tons of heroin with a market value of over US$5 billion in the European market. Police dogs seize about 75 tons of different kinds of drugs such as opiates, cannabis, methamphetamine and other synthetic drugs. Today, with more than 150 dogs and consequently an impressive quantity of drugs seized, Iran is regarded as a successful anti-narcotics hub in the region. This programme was funded by Japan and Denmark.

by drug use was to develop capacities of services at field levels in communities as well as in the penitentiary system. The UN supported the government in successfully carrying out widespread advocacy initiatives for decreasing stigma and discrimination against people who use drugs. Following this, the capacity of service providers in implementing harm reduction programmes improved

substantially. As a result, the number of people who inject drugs receiving a service package rose from 10% in 2013 to 40% in 2016. Care and treatment areas of the HIV programme were analysed and validated by WHO. Subsequently, a strategic guidance was developed to scale up services and coverage.

Outcome 5.4

Trafficking

The UN supported strengthening national capacities to prevent drug trafficking – and also the illicit trafficking of cultural goods. For instance, capacities were developed in using new software which was introduced to prevent such illicit trafficking and improve interdiction.

In addition, preventative measures related to the illicit trafficking of cultural properties have been strengthened through capacity building workshops for museum managers, World Heritage Site Managers, local NGOs and law enforcement officials. These can be used in the day-to-day work of

the police, customs officials, cultural experts, heritage site managers, museum staff and community members. Furthermore, the work of the UN in procuring technical instruments, test kits and equipment has overall strengthened the quality of interventions related to countering organised crime in Iran. Capacity development initiatives supported by the UN have led to the effective use of modern methods in responding to threats of Transnational Organised Crime (TOC). In addition, through sub-regional coordination and cooperation, the overall level of response to transnational (and national) organised crime was has improved.

Lessons Learned and the Way Forward

Children are having fun in their break time in Imam Mahdi school in Karian village, Minab city, Bandar Abbas province.
© Vida Montakhab/UNICEF Iran
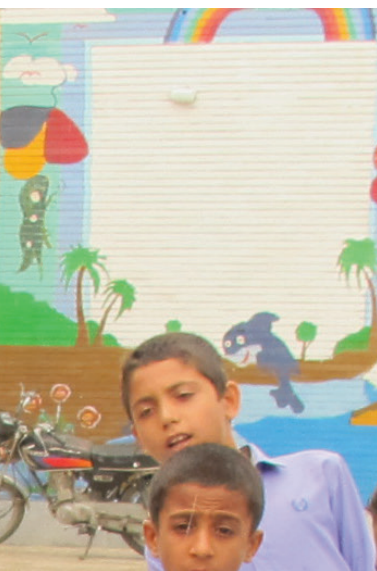
The above analysis and examples indicate how the UN system has supported the Government of Iran's development priorities during the reporting period.

During the same period, the Government of Iran demonstrated its ownership of the UNDAF process through engagement and interest in UNDAF-related programmes at all levels. The Government of Iran actively participated at a high-level both in the UNDAF High-Level Steering Committee meetings and the TAG meetings. The various ministries also cooperated closely – at an operational level – with relevant UN development agency counterparts. This approach underpinned the UNDAF's relevance to national priorities within Iran's broader development goals.

There was considerable rigour in reporting on results by the various agencies, through the UN-MET. However, there is still significant room for improvement. The variations in the annual reporting cycles for each UN agency, in both timing and format, makes it difficult to consolidate the number and nature of the results produced by the UN's work. The focus on what constitutes a 'result' for the annual reporting of each UN agency also tends to vary. The main lessons learned from the implementation of the 2012-2016 UNDAF are as follows:

1

Difficulty with UNDAF evaluability

In line with its commitments under the 2012-2016 UNDAF, the UNDAF High-Level Steering Committee asked the UN M&E Team to carry out an Evaluability Assessment (EA) of the UNDAF. This was expected to better inform a decision on the feasibility of investing in a full evaluation. EAs are an established means of reviewing the coherence and logic of a project or programme. They clarify data availability and adequacy in reflecting progress towards results. The assessments also make a judgment on whether interventions are designed such that, once complete, they demonstrate their effectiveness in achieving established outcomes.

The UN-MET used an EA tool developed by ILO which, although not designed directly to assess the evaluability of UNDAFs, could be easily applied to it. [10] The EA instrument scores the UNDAF according to 6 domains: objectives, indicators, baselines, milestones, risks and assumptions, and M&E planning. Raw scores within each domain are weighted, pooled and adjusted to provide an overall evaluability score. This score needs to exceed a nominal 'par' value if the UNDAF is to be considered "mostly evaluable".

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10. *i-eval* Resource Kit. Guidance Note 11: Using the evaluability assessment tool. ILO – Evaluation Unit. (2011).

13

Radar Graph − UNDAF − Iran Evaluability
Across Six Domains
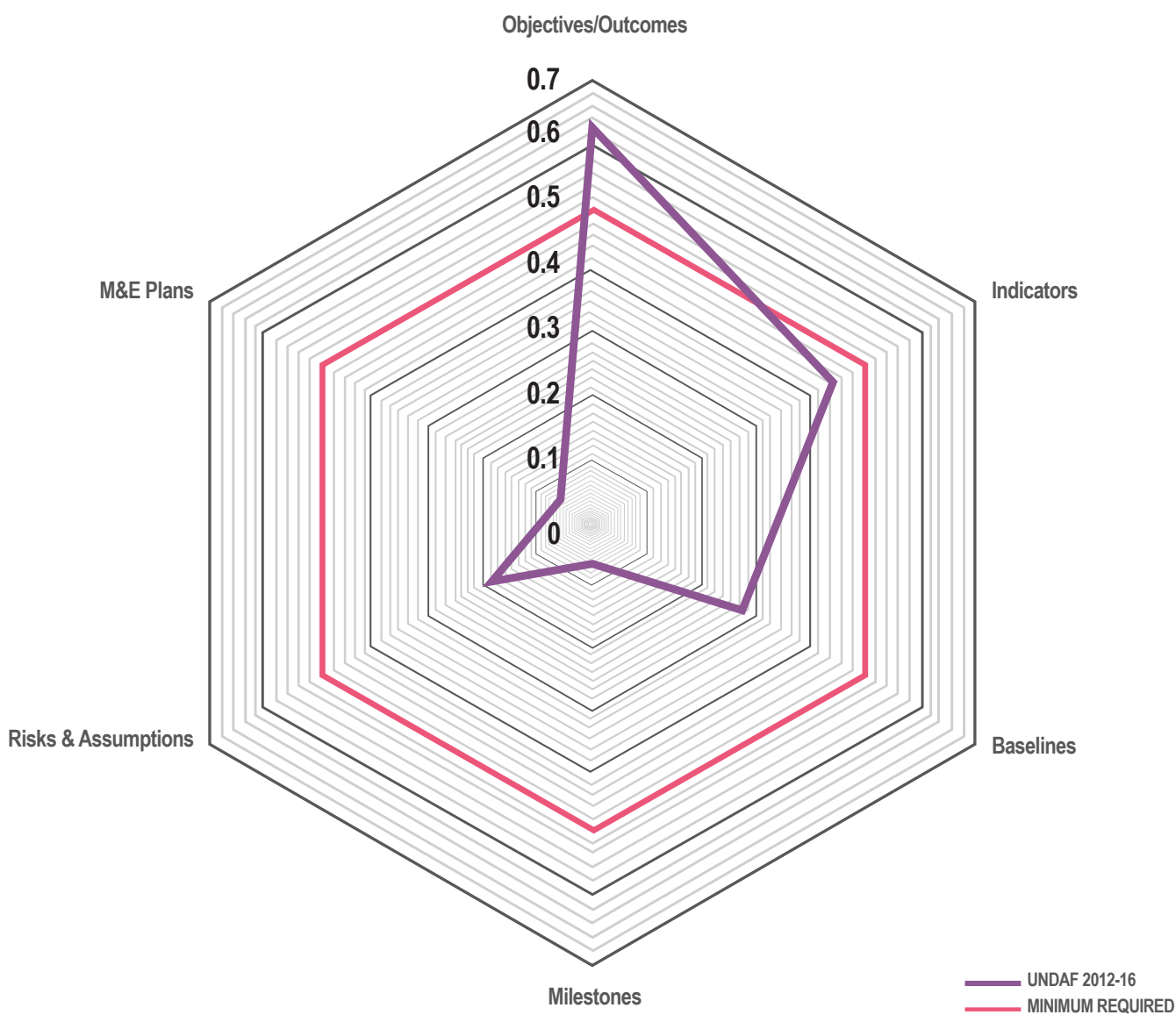
The EA of UNDAF-Iran for 2012-2016 yielded an overall score of 1.65. This means that the UNDAF has "limited evaluability [and] needs substantial improvement". The radar graph above shows how the overall score breaks down across the 6 EA domains. It is in only one domain – outcomes and outputs – that the UNDAF exceeds the minimum standard needed for evaluability. In contrast, EA scores in 3 other domains – M&E planning, risks and assumptions, and milestones – fall well short of the 'par' score.

A complementary qualitative exercise found that the design of the UNDAF was clear, relevant and plausible. However, it highlighted weaknesses in the areas of data availability and disaggregation, M&E capacity and institutional commitment to the high standards of M&E recommended by the UN Development Group (UNDG) guidelines. It should be noted that the current UNDAF for 2017-2021 has adopted a structure and content (including baseline) which will be more evaluable.

2 Changes in major planning assumptions, risks and emerging opportunities

The international community's expectation from the UN to mobilise resources in order to support and cooperate in addressing global development and climate-related challenges has increased significantly in recent years. Attracting sufficient investment (both public and private) will be a crucial complement to traditional public spending and international aid, if the ambitious SDGs and the COP21 commitments are to be achieved.

The UNDAF Monitoring and Evaluation Framework specifies two main assumptions and two risks related to all outcomes and outputs, namely:

- Assumption: Access to relevant public data as appropriate.
- Assumption: Support for sustainability of the projects.
- Risk: Constraints to test the proposed models.
- Risk: Constraints in adapting the introduced new best practices.

These general assumptions and risks remain relevant. However, there are other fundamental assumptions underpinning the UNDAF that also need to be more explicitly assessed and accounted for. This is necessary if the UNDAF is to become a more effective planning and management tool. This will, in turn, allow the UNDAF to facilitate coordinated and streamlined UN action and support. These include the following:

a That the UN system can be better integrated and coordinated without making fundamental institutional changes in internal (and cross-agency) decision making, procedural and accountability systems.

b That all UN agencies can deliver a broad range of support services, from policy support down to implementation of micro-field activities, within limited budgets and without necessarily compromising the effectiveness of one area of work over another.

c That by developing broad and ambitious objectives, funding will flow, and results will be achieved.

3 Continued relevance of UNDAF outcomes and outputs to national priorities and broader country context

The UN system continues to work in support of the Government of Iran's development priorities and broader country context. In line with this, the 2012-2016 UNDAF was closely aligned with the objectives of Iran's 5th Five-Year NDP 2011-2015. The scope of the UNDAF is broad. Almost any of its activities or initiatives relevant to Iran's national economic and social development can be undertaken within the general framework of the UNDAF. The Government of Iran and the United Nations system demonstrated mutual ownership of the UNDAF progress.

However, there is scope for the UN in general, as well as each of its agencies, to focus more clearly on their real comparative advantages over other development partners and domestic stakeholders (both government and non-government). This holds particularly true in the highly resource-constrained working environments that many of the agencies face.

4 The need for better monitoring and evaluation of results

As noted elsewhere in this report, greater clarity needs to be given to some of the UNDAF outcome and output statements. This includes on how the UN's contribution is effectively monitored, evaluated and reported on. Many of the result statements and corresponding indicators proved difficult for implementers to use in practice.

5 Corresponding adjustments to expected results and resource allocations

In some cases, results were vague or too complex in the way they were expressed. In some instances, it was noticed that some results overlapped, or were duplicated, with others. There were instances where two or more agencies worked together to achieve results. This reflected a productive spirit of working jointly under UNDAF. Such instances need to be promoted, and anticipated in the planning phase for the next UNDAF cycle.

6 UNDAF (2012-2016) baseline survey

The 2012-2016 UNDAF underlines the important linkages between baseline indicators and data and informed decision-making. The founding document made a commitment that "…By 1 January 2012, the Government and the UNCT will agree to baseline data and set targets to be proposed to the Steering Committee. Indicators at Outcome and Output levels will be drawn from official data sources and aligned with the 5th Five-Year NDP, national development indicators and national MDG targets".

Regrettably from a programmatic standpoint, very few targets were formally set at either outcome or output level. The absence of clear targets affected the evaluability of the UNDAF at the end of the cycle. Notwithstanding the need to address data gaps, an important lesson learned during the course of the UNDAF Baseline Survey of 2012 was that there is a strong need for better communication and exchange of information between the various partners and stakeholders of the UNDAF. This will contribute to better, more efficient implementation, monitoring and reporting.

The table below provides an overview of the status of data submission as the time of writing this report, disaggregated by thematic area and programme level.

UNDAF Priority Area	Outcome		Output		All indicators	
	Number	Status known	Number	Status known	Number	Status known
1. Poverty Reduction	5	100%	36	100%	41	100%
2. Health	11	100%	45	89%	56	91%
3. Environmentally Sustainable Development	18	67%	47	74%	65	72%
4. Natural Disaster Management	8	100%	33	97%	41	98%
5. Drug Control and Prevention	19	84%	86	66%	105	70%
Total	61	85%	247	81%	308	82%

Annex
Definitions and Acronyms

DEFINITIONS

Some terms are frequently used through the document. For the sake of clarity and consistency, these terms are defined here. Definitions are taken from the 2012 UNDG Results-Based Management Handbook.

RESULT

Results are changes in a state or condition that derive from a cause-and-effect relationship. There are three types of such changes – outputs, outcomes and impact – that can be set in motion by a development intervention. The changes can be intended or unintended, positive or negative – or both.

OUTPUT

Outputs are changes in skills or abilities and capacities of individuals or institutions, or the availability of new products and services that result from the completion of activities within a development intervention within the control of the organization. They are achieved with the resources provided and within the time period specified.

OUTCOME

Outcomes represent changes in the institutional and behavioural capacities for development conditions that occur between the completion of outputs and the achievement of goals.

IMPACT

Impact implies changes in people's lives. This might include changes in knowledge, skill, behaviour, health or living conditions for children, adults, families or communities. Such changes are positive or negative long-term effects on identifiable population groups produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. These effects can be economic, socio-cultural, institutional, environmental, technological or of other types. During the period under review, positive impacts were intended to have some contributory relationship with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), internationally-agreed development goals, national development goals, and national commitments to international conventions and treaties.

GOAL

A specific end result desired or expected to occur as a consequence, at least in part, of an intervention or activity. It is the higher order objective that will assure national capacity building to which a development intervention is intended to contribute.

ACTIVITY

Actions taken or work performed through which inputs, such as funds, technical assistance and other types of resources, are mobilized to produce specific outputs.

INPUT

The financial, human, material, technological and information resources used for development interventions.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

A performance indicator is a unit of measurement that specifies what is to be measured along a scale or dimension but does not indicate the direction or change. Performance indicators are a qualitative or quantitative means of

measuring an output or outcome, with the intention of gauging the performance of a programme or investment.

BASELINE
Information gathered at the beginning of a project or programme against which variations that occur in the project or programme are measured.

TARGET
Specifies a particular value that an indicator should reach by a specific date in the future. For example, "total literacy rate to reach 85 percent among groups X and Y by the year 2010."

RESULTS FRAMEWORK OR MATRIX:
A results framework or matrix explains how results are to be achieved, including causal relationships and underlying assumptions and risks. The results framework reflects strategic level thinking across an entire organization, a country programme, a programme component within a country programme, or a project.

PERFORMANCE: The degree to which a development intervention or a development partner operates according to specific criteria/standard/guidelines or achieves results in accordance with stated plans.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

- Border Liaison Office
- Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs
- Centre for Disease Control
- Cultural Heritage Organisation
- Department of Environment
- Drug Control Headquarters
- Energy Information Administration
- Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization
- Iranian Red Crescent Society Judiciary
- Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Energy
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Health and Medical Education
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Jihad Agriculture
- Ministry of Labour
- National Disaster Management Organization
- National Organization of Civil Registration
- Participatory Village Resources Management Council
- Planning and Budgeting Organization
- Prisons Organisation
- Rural Women's Affairs Bureau
- State Welfare Organisation
- Statistical Centre of Iran
- Tehran Disaster Mitigation and Management Organization
- Tehran Municipality
- University of Medical Sciences

ACRONYMS

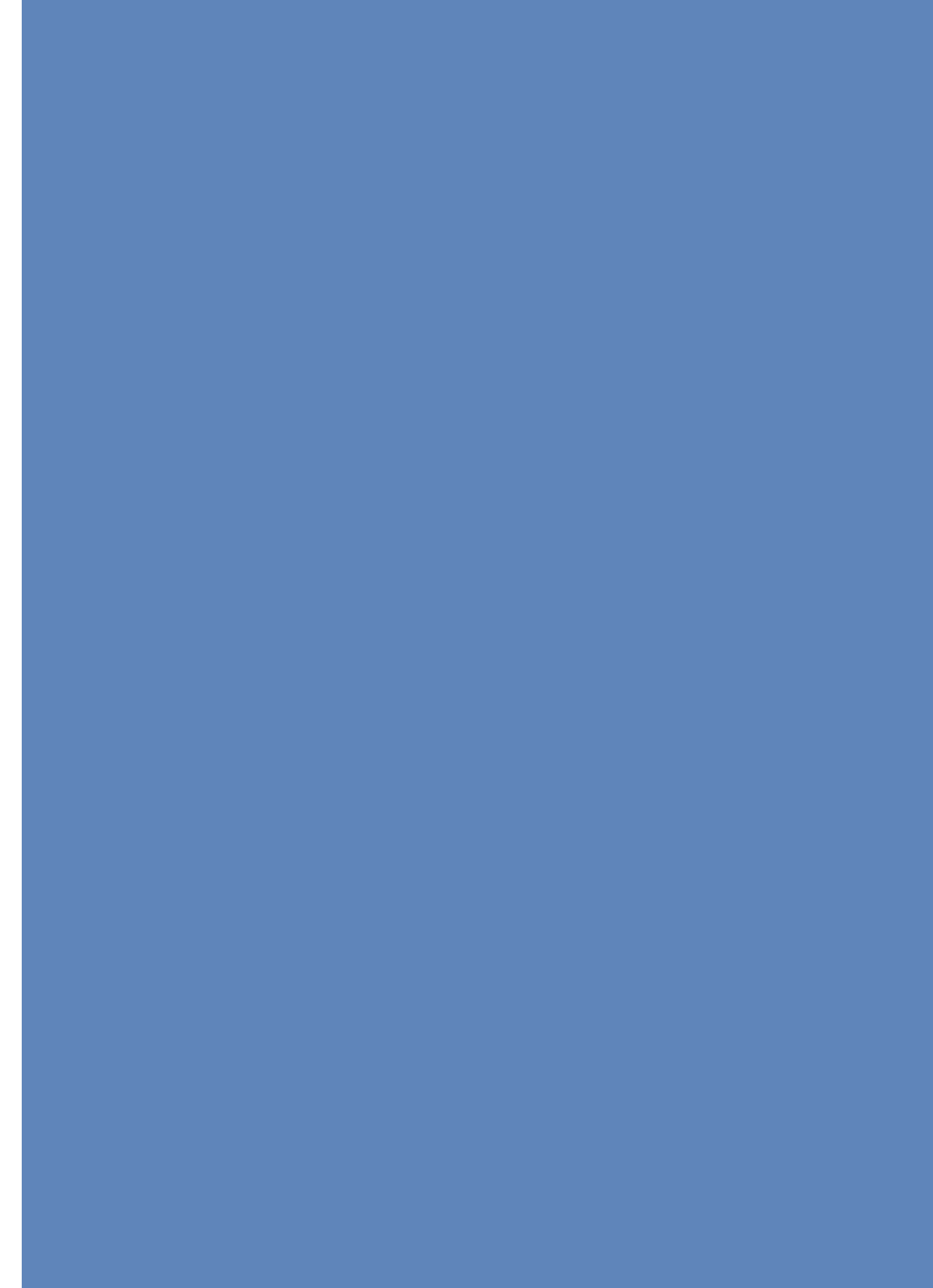|	
bOPV	bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine
BR	Biosphere Reserve
CCA	Community Conserved Areas
CCDC	Centre for Communicable Diseases Control
CDC	Centre for Disease Control
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DoE	Department of Environment
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction Management
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECCIMA	Esfahan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture
EFA	Education for All
EIA	Energy Information Administration
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAST	Families and Schools Together
FRWO	Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Organisation
GARPR	Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GF	Global Fund
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIZ	Gesellschaft-für-Internationale-Zusammenarbeit (German development agency)
HCFC	Hydro-Chloro-Fluoro-Carbon
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HTP	Health Transformation Programme
HVW	HIV vulnerable women
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDUs	Injecting Drug Users
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPV	Inactivated Polio Vaccine
IRCS	Iranian Red Crescent Society
IHR	International Health Regulation
IMP	Integrated Management Planning
LMIA	Labour Market Information Analysis
MCLSW	Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Affairs
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDPI	Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index
MDR	Multi Drug Resistance
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
mhGAP	Mental health Gap Action Programme
MIC	Middle Income Country
MoHME	Ministry of Health and Medical Education
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTCT	Mother-to-Child Transmission
NBCRC	National Body on the Convention of the Rights of the Child
NCDs	Non-Communicable Disease
NDMO	National Disaster Management Organization
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSP	National Strategic Plan

ODP	Ozone Depleting Potential
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substances
OOP	Out-of-Pocket Expenditure
OPV	Oral Polio Vaccine
PBO	Planning and Budgeting Organisation
PHC	Primary Health Care
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
PVRMC	Participatory Village Resources Management Council
QEC	Quality Education Committee
RH	Reproductive Health
RBM	Results-based Management
SCI	Statistical Centre of Iran
SDH	Social Determinants of Health
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLFM	Sustainable Land and Forest Management
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPX	Sub-contracting Partnership Exchange
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
TB	Tuberculosis
TCPR	Triennial Comprehensive Policy review
TDMMO	Tehran Disaster Mitigation and Management Organization
TOC	Transnational Organized Crime
tOPV	trivalent Oral Polio Vaccine
UMS	University of Medical Sciences
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UN-MET	United Nations Monitoring and Evaluation Taskforce
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGASS	UN General Assembly Special Session
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNIC	United Nations Information Centre
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNODC	United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime
UT	University of Tehran
VW	Vulnerable Women
VC	Village Councils
VLP	Village Level Plan
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WLP	Watershed Level Plan
WPA	Wetland Protected Areas