

UN COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT

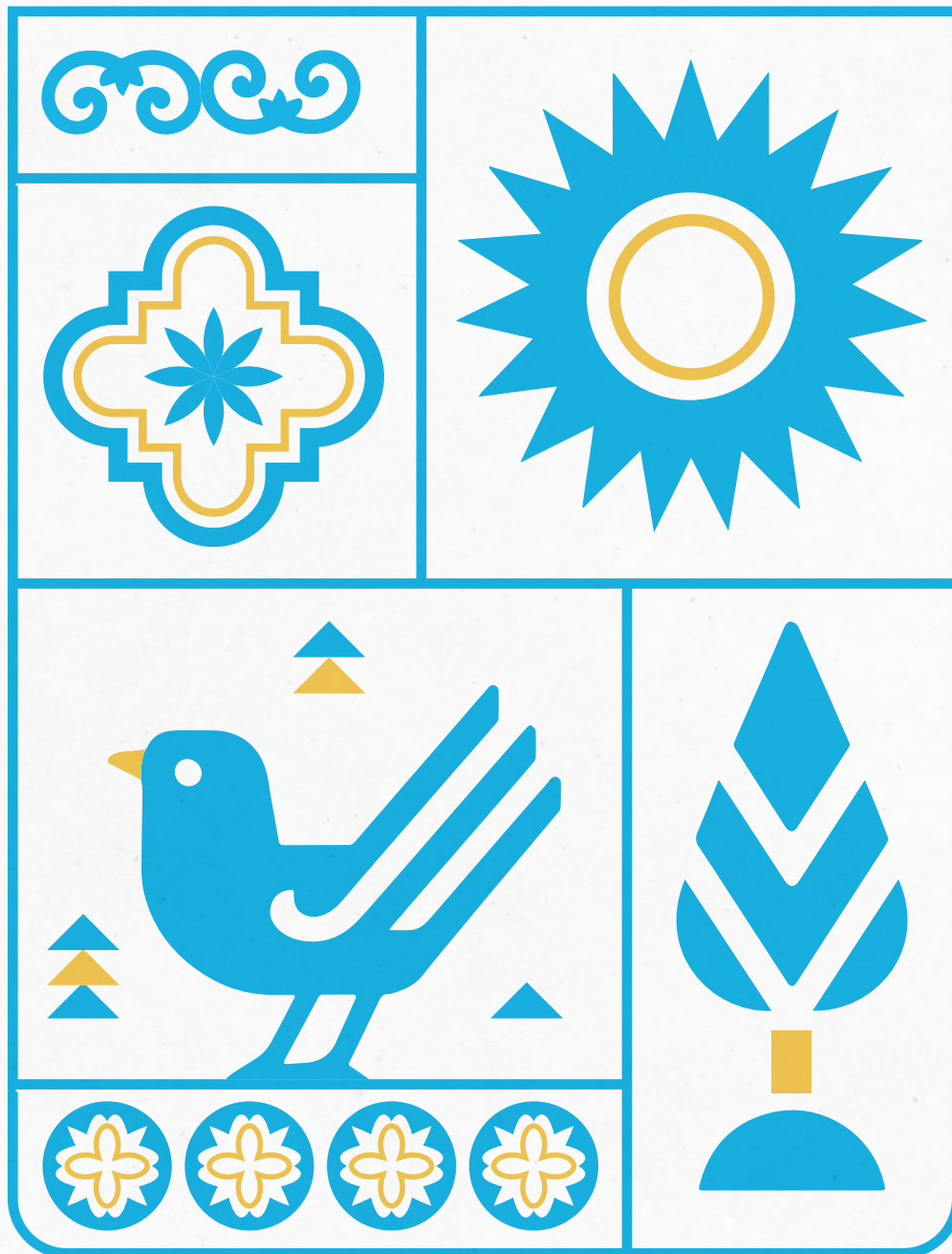
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, 2024



UNITED NATIONS
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



UNITED NATIONS ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2024



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



Message from the UN Resident Coordinator in I.R. of Iran

With gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the support of donor countries, I am pleased to share with you the United Nations Results Report for the Islamic Republic of Iran for 2024.

Amid the global, regional and domestic challenges in 2024, the United Nations remained committed to supporting the people of Iran. The two largest areas of the United Nations programme interventions were health and support to refugees and host communities. The United Nations also provided impactful programme interventions in socio-economic resilience, environment, disaster risk reduction and drug control.

In the areas of socio-economic resilience, the United Nations focused on digital skills and inclusive economic growth by supporting people in vulnerable situation, including female headed households, youth and persons with disabilities. Support focused on capacity building and linking them to digital markets. In addition, support by the United Nations in target areas in four provinces - East Azerbaijan, West Azerbaijan, Fars, and Khuzestan – contributed to a 5.14% increase of women's employment rates in these areas.

Health remained a cornerstone of the United Nations support, benefitting not only the people of Iran but also contributing to global efforts in HIV/AIDS prevention and vaccination. The United Nations provided technical and capacity assistance and procured essential medical supplies, reaching over 2.4 million people in the country.

In terms of environment, United Nations support to sustainable natural resource management and agriculture across 5,400 hectares in four provinces - East and West Azerbaijan, Fars,

and Khuzestan provinces - contributed to an almost 30% reduction in water consumption while at the same time a more than 20% increase in crop yields. The United Nations supported the Government in phasing out ozone-depleting substances equivalent to 39.47 tonnes of ozone-depleting potential—exceeding Montreal Protocol targets.

To address air pollution and climate resilience as part of disaster risk reduction, the United Nations supported the Government by deploying advanced technologies to improve data storage, modelling and processing, thereby enhancing the accuracy of sand and dust storm forecasting. Under disaster risk reduction, timely support was also provided to flood-affected communities in Sistan and Baluchestan province.

Despite limited funding, the United Nations continued its assistance in drug demand reduction, particularly targeting youth in vulnerable situation. The UN supported border control initiatives benefited not only Iran, but also the wider region and global efforts.

The United Nations also continues to assist the Government in its inclusive policies to Afghan refugees and displaced Afghans and provides support to refugees and host communities with improved access to essential services, technical and vocational training, financial and in-kind assistance for refugees in settlements.

The United Nations actively advocated for additional resources to support Iran, convening multi-stakeholder dialogues and events on renewable energy and environment, resulting in concrete programming to support Iran in addressing environmental issues. Over the past year, the United Nations also strengthened its coordinated approach by leveraging the mandates and expertise of its entities to effectively support Iran's sustainable development and humanitarian priorities.

Despite the ongoing challenges, the United Nations has remained steadfast in its commitment to supporting Iran's national development agenda with a focus on people in vulnerable situation.

UN Resident Coordinator
in the I.R. of Iran

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



UN Entities Operating in the I.R. of Iran

UN RESIDENT ENTITIES:



UN NON-RESIDENT ENTITIES:



Key National Implementing Partners

Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ)

Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Organization (ICHTO)

Iranian Red Crescent Society

Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization

Ministry of Agriculture Jihad (MAJ)

Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare (MoCLSW)

Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance (MEAF)

Ministry of Education (MoEd)

Ministry of Energy (MoE)

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME)

Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade (MIMT)

Ministry of Interior (Mol)

Ministry of Justice (MoJ)

Ministry of Mines, Industry and Commerce

Ministry of Petroleum

Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (MRUD)

Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT)

Ministry of Youth and Sport

National Disaster Management Organisation (NDMO)

Plan and Budget Organisation (PBO)

State Welfare Organization (SWO)

Vice-Presidency for the Department of Environment (DoE)

Vice-Presidency for the Rural Development and Deprived Areas (RDDA)

Vice-Presidency for the Science and Technology

Key contributors:



Australia



Austria



Belgium



Bulgaria



Canada



China



Denmark



Finland



France



Germany



Ireland



Italy



Japan



Netherlands



New Zealand



Norway



Russia



Republic of Korea



Spain



Sweden



Switzerland



United Kingdom

European Commission

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Green Climate Fund

Global Fund

IOM Development Fund

Korea International Cooperation Agency

Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol

One UN Iran Impact Fund

Public Health Agency of Canada

Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, Iran

United Budget, Results and Accountability Framework

UNFPA Emergency Fund

Table of Contents

	Message from the UN Resident Coordinator	4
	Composition of the UN Country Team	5
	Key national implementing partners	6
	Key contributors	6
	Chapter I: Key development trends in the country	8
	Chapter II: UNDS support to national development and humanitarian priorities	10
	2.1 Overview of the UNSDCF results	11
	2.2 UNSDCF Strategic Priorities	13
	Outcome I: Socio-Economic Resilience	13
	Outcome II: Public Health Management	17
	Outcome III: Environment	23
	Outcome IV: Disaster Risk Reduction and Management	29
	Outcome V: Drug Control	33
	2.3 Support to refugees and host communities	40
	2.4 Support to Partnerships and Financing	44
	2.5 Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency	48
	2.6 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization	51
	Chapter III: UNCT key focus for next year	52
	List of Acronyms	54



Chapter

1

KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN THE COUNTRY



In 2024, Iran faced multiple crises, including deadly terrorist attacks, regional tensions, and the passing of President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash in May. Despite these challenges, the country maintained political stability with the election of Masoud Pezeshkian and upheld economic resilience through strategic governance.



On the planning side Iran's Seventh Five-Year Progress Plan, formally adopted in May 2024, outlines key priorities such as economic growth, inflation control, and social development while aligning with international commitments. The plan emphasizes budget and tax reforms, economic diversification, food security, energy expansion, and infrastructure improvements. Social policies focus on empowering women, strengthening family values, and addressing social challenges. Administrative reforms aim to modernize public services, improve judicial efficiency, and enhance cybersecurity, all contributing to Iran's long-term sustainable development goals.



On the real economic side, Iran's economy has remained resilient despite external pressures, supported by strategic reforms aimed at stability and growth. While GDP growth remained positive, it showed slight fluctuations, declining from 4.4% in the summer of 2023 to 3.4% in the summer of 2024.¹



The labor market has remained stable, with an unemployment rate of 7.2% reported at the end of 2024. In the energy sector, Iran, as one of the world's largest holders of oil and gas reserves, continues to strengthen its position while advancing policies for efficiency and sustainability. The government has committed to expanding renewable energy capacity to 30,000 MW by 2030 and is investing heavily in energy efficiency improvements.³



Housing remains a top priority, with large-scale initiatives such as the National Housing Movement addressing shortages and affordability concerns. Despite global economic uncertainties, Iran has maintained steady progress in housing development by expanding access to financing and encouraging private sector participation.



With a population exceeding 86 million, Iran has long hosted Afghan refugees and other displaced Afghans. The government continues to provide essential services such as education and healthcare.⁴ Managing this population remains a priority, balancing humanitarian support with economic integration.

1. [Statistical Centre of Iran, Seasonal National Accounts \(Summer 2024\).](#)

2. [Statistical Centre of Iran, Consumer Price Index \(January 2025\).](#)

3. [Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization.](#)

4. [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. UNHCR Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2023 \(2023\).](#)





Chapter

2

**UN
DEVELOPMENT
SYSTEM
SUPPORT TO
NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
AND
HUMANITARIAN
PRIORITIES**

2.1. Overview of UNSDCF Results

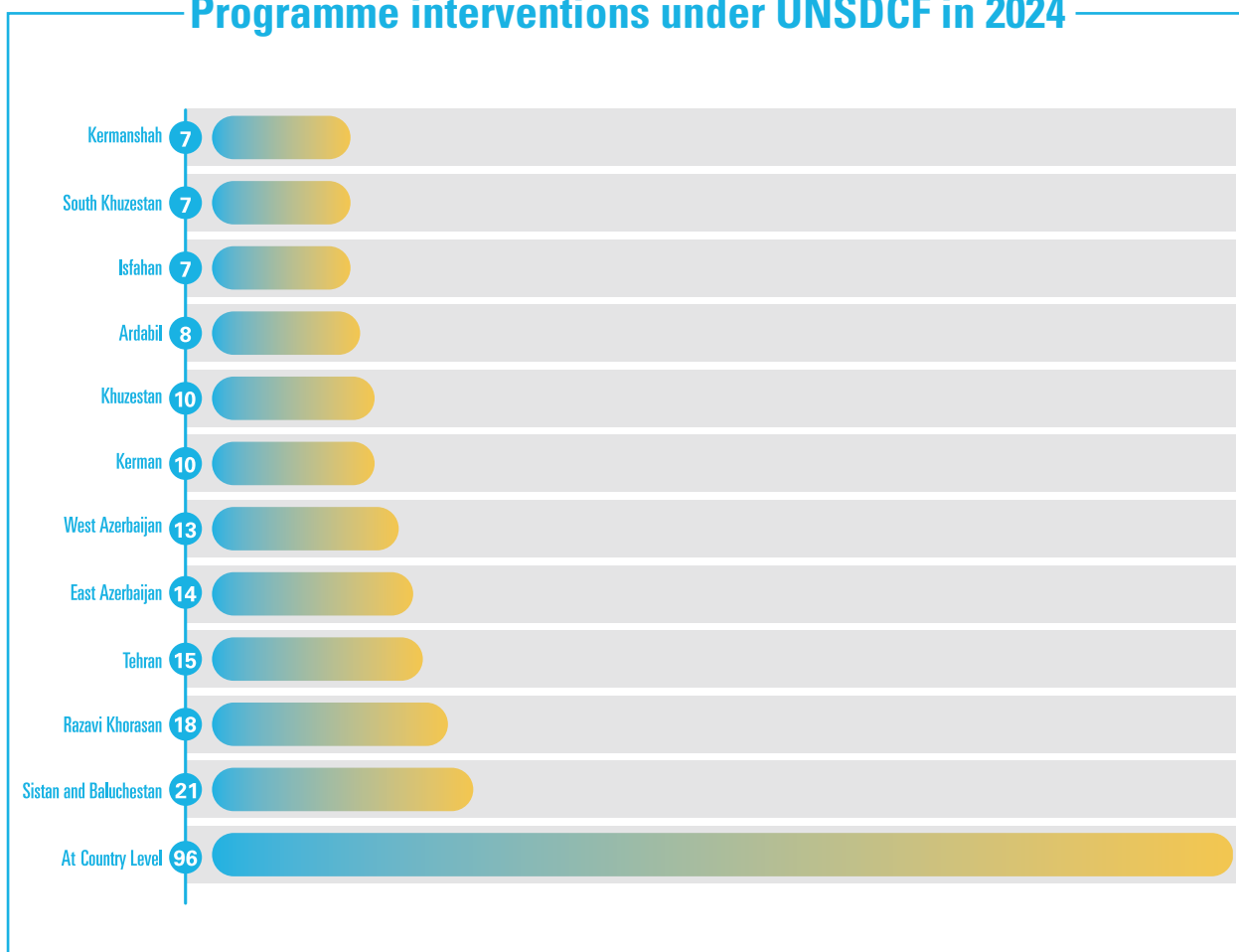
The year 2024 marked the second year of implementation for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027, which was signed by the Government of the I.R. of Iran and the United Nations in November 2022. The UNSDCF outlines the strategic priorities and principles for cooperation between the UN and Iran and is aligned with the Islamic Republic's 7th Five-Year Progress Plan (2024–2027). The Cooperation Framework emphasizes national ownership and leadership, ensuring that all joint development activities are aligned with the Government's development policies and priorities.

The UNSDCF is guided by five strategic priorities that steer the UN System's work in Iran. These priorities, as shown below, serve as the foundation for the ongoing cooperation.



✚ **Note:** The map reflects the scope of 155 programme initiatives and projects, with 96 projects and programme interventions at the national level and 59 interventions in 26 provinces in Iran. Source: [UN INFO](#)

Programme interventions under UNSDCF in 2024



In 2024, notable progress was achieved across all five UNSDCF outcomes through 155 programme initiatives and projects in 26 out of Iran's 31 provinces. Sistan and Baluchestan (21 activities), Khorasan Razavi (18), Tehran (15), East Azerbaijan (14), and West Azerbaijan (13) provinces led in terms of the number of programme interventions. Across the five strategic areas of the Cooperation Framework, the UN's contributions were delivered through a variety of approaches, mainly capacity development, technical assistance, partnership facilitation, South-South cooperation, and knowledge sharing.

In its second year, most of the UNSDCF programme interventions focused on driving progress towards good health and well-being (53%), environmental sustainability and climate action (22%), poverty reduction (16%), job creation and economic growth (12%). Following massive floods in Sistan and Baluchestan province in early 2024, the UN provided integrated support to the Government, ensuring the complementarity of both humanitarian and development efforts within the Cooperation Framework.

The total expenditure in the second implementation year showed a 35% decrease compared to the first year, reaching US\$ 22 million. The highest expenditure was recorded under Health (US\$ 12 million), followed by Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (US\$ 3.8 million), Socio-Economic Resilience (US\$ 2.7 million), Environment (US\$ 2.3 million) and Drug Control (US\$ 1 million). The majority of funding sources for the UNSDCF implementation were donor contributions (US\$ 17.1 million or 78%), followed by core UN entity resources (US\$ 4.6 million or 21%) and Government cost sharing (US\$ 300,000 or 1%). Note that latter includes estimated Government cost-sharing contributions to programme implementation, in addition to the Government-provided premises and other forms of support.

The following sections of this chapter provide further insights into the progress made across each of the five UNSDCF priority pillars. For more detailed information on programme activities, please visit the UNSDG Data Portal at uninfo.org. Detailed financial disaggregation by UNSDCF pillar can be found in the chapter "Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization."



2.2. UNSDCF Strategic Priorities

↑
OUTCOME SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE
↓



© Kaveh Seyedahmadian



SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

BY 2027, PEOPLE OF IRAN ENJOY SHOCK RESPONSIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATED INTO POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 1.1:

Strengthened development planning and programming



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 1.2:

Human and social capital development promoted through improved access to inclusive programmes and use of life-cycle approaches



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 1.3:

Increased institutional capacities and enhanced access to social protection services



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 1.4:

Improved institutional capacities for inclusive growth, employment generation, industrial development and harnessing the demographic dividend



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 1.5:

Integrated and sustainable development and implementation frameworks in place, targeting less advantaged populations

Chaired by:



unicef 
for every child

Contributing UN agencies:



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International
Trade
Centre



UNAIDS



UN-HABITAT



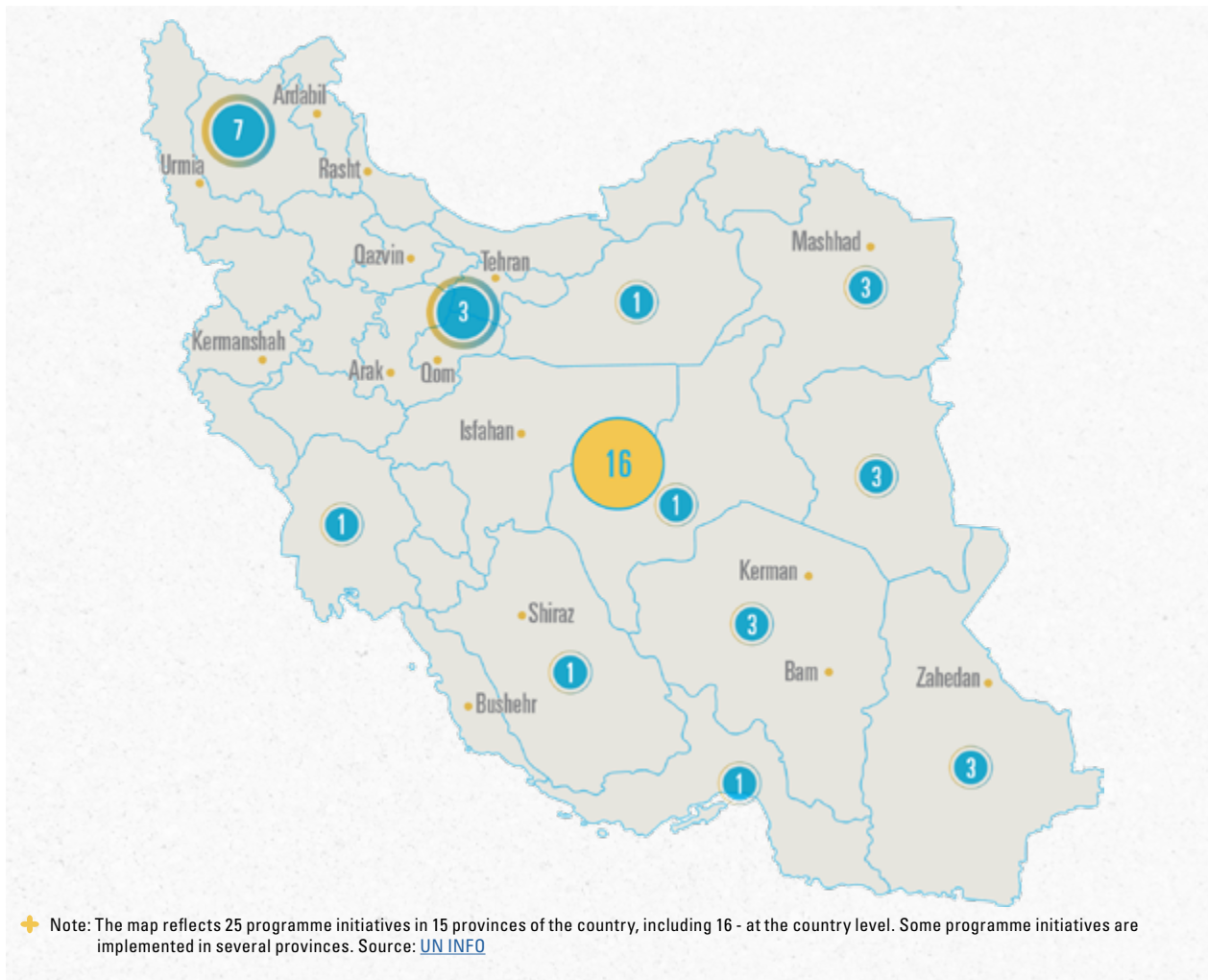
United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime



World Health
Organization

Expenditure:

US\$ 2.7 million



Key achievements:

- Improved use of administrative data for population statistics and a combined census in 2026
- Capacity building and technical trainings on Technical and Vocational Education and Training, artificial intelligence and tech-based standards for:

507

Vocational trainings on alternative livelihoods

120

Early childhood education teachers (90% female) nationwide on disability inclusion

1,678

Start-ups including 1,678 female headed households as well as 203 persons with disabilities and youth

70

Social Workers on child-friendly procedures

205

Boarding school principals (100 female) to reach 130,000 students

- 1,340 female headed households in West Azerbaijan (Khoy), Kerman (Kerman) and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad (Yasuj) provinces were equipped with vocational and entrepreneurship skills
- 2,732 people received support for sustainable agriculture and alternative livelihood
- Contribution to 2.74% increase in employment rate and 5.14% increase for women in the pilot sites
- 490 youth and persons with disability with enhanced digital literacy and e-commerce skills

In 2024, progress was made by the national partners and the United Nations across various developmental sectors, showcasing the impact of targeted interventions and capacity-building initiatives under the Socio-Economic Resilience pillar. One of the key achievements was the strengthened national capacity to use administrative data for population statistics through United Nations' training of 270 government experts and South-South knowledge-sharing events with China and Türkiye. This will prepare for a combined census in 2026 and enhance the accuracy and reliability of population data, which is crucial for informed policymaking and resource allocation.

Capacity building and technical training were at the forefront of efforts to empower various population. A total of 507 vocational training courses on alternative livelihoods were conducted, focusing on TVET, AI, and tech-based standards. Additionally, 120 early childhood education teachers, 90% of whom were female, received training in disability inclusion. Start-ups, including 1,678 female-headed households and 203 people with disabilities and youth, benefited from these initiatives. Furthermore, 70 social workers were trained in child-friendly procedures, and 205 boarding school

principals, including 100 women, were equipped to reach approximately 130,000 students across the country.

490 female-headed households, youth and persons with disabilities have enhanced digital literacy as a result of vocational and e-commerce trainings with the support of the United Nations. This programme initiative empowered them with essential skills to navigate digital marketing, with 15% of the beneficiaries reporting their income growth through online platforms.

Technical and financial support provided to the Government by the United Nations contributed to a 2.74% increase in the employment rate in pilot sites in the four provinces of East Azerbaijan, West Azerbaijan, Fars, and Khuzestan. Notably, women's employment rates improved by 5.14% in the pilot areas, highlighting the positive impact of these comprehensive efforts. This support was instrumental in creating job opportunities and fostering economic growth in these pilots. Furthermore, sustainable agriculture and alternative livelihood initiatives were supported, benefiting 2,732 people in local communities. These initiatives promoted self-sufficiency and resilience among local populations, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Tomorrow is bright

Imagine a world where every woman, regardless of circumstances, has the skills and opportunities to thrive and be empowered. This dream is becoming a reality in the provinces of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, through joint efforts of the UN in Iran and the Technical Vocational Training institute; with the support of Digikala, Iran's leading e-commerce platform. This initiative is empowering female-headed households, women living with disabilities and youth in vulnerable situation through vocational training, digital tools and access to marketplaces.



Women with Disabilities receiving vocational training.

©UNFPA Iran - 2024

OUTCOME Public Health Management



© Kaveh Seyedahmadian



PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT

BY 2027, PEOPLE OF IRAN BENEFIT FROM ENHANCED HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND ENJOY HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES.



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 2.1:

The health system is resilient and addresses a range of risks in diverse settings and emergencies.



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 2.2:

All relevant partners contribute to addressing health determinants and risk factors and promote healthy lifestyles.

Chaired by:  **World Health Organization**

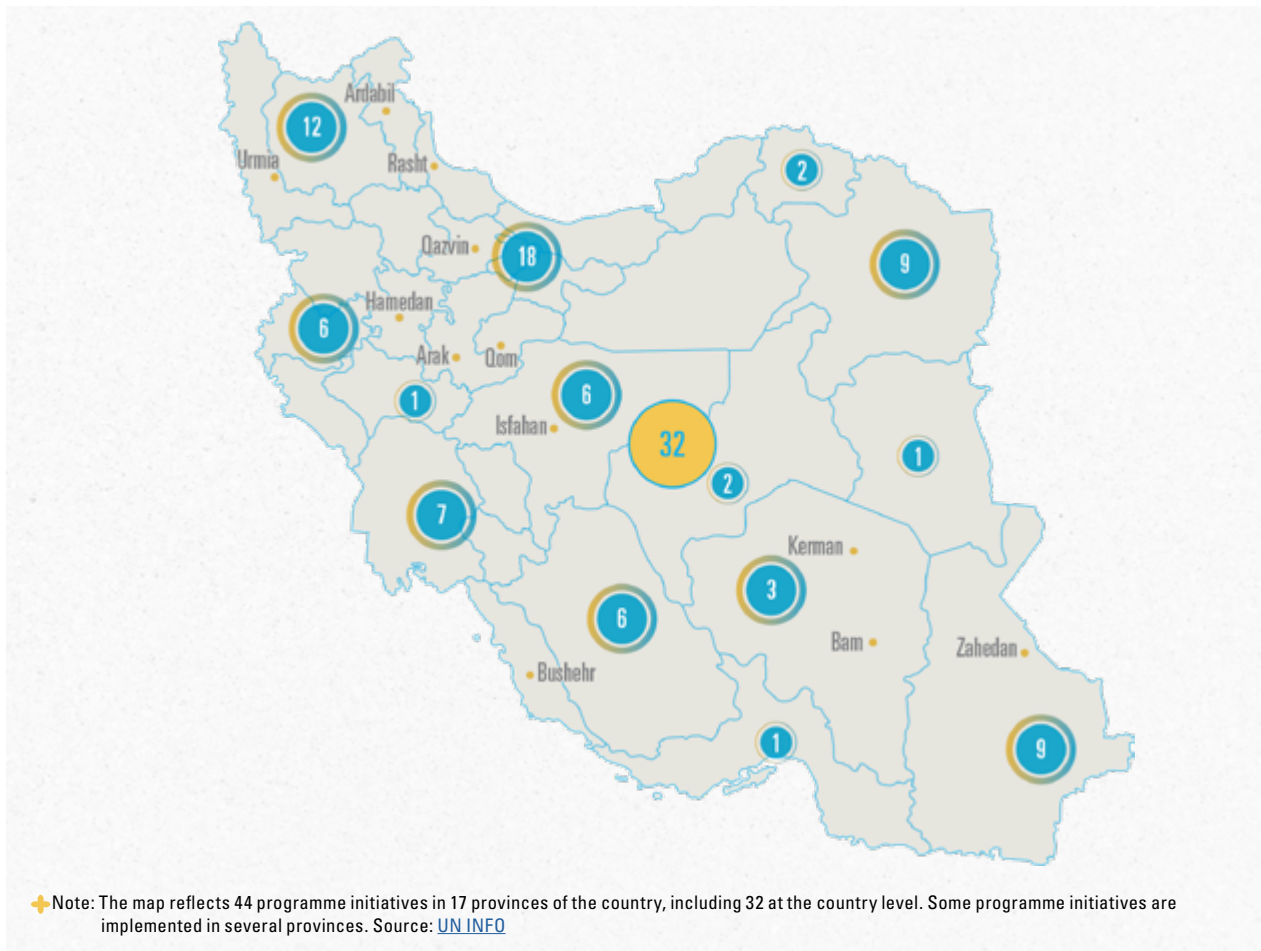
Contributing UN agencies:



Expenditure:

US\$ 12 million

Throughout the year, the United Nations continued to support national efforts to address health issues, largely channelling its support through capacity development and technical assistance, knowledge sharing and technology transfer, and procurement of goods and services. In 2024, a total of 44 programme initiatives were implemented in 17 provinces of the country, including 32 activities at the country level, under the UNSDCF Health strategic area of cooperation.



In close collaboration with its national partners, 965 duty bearers were capacitated, thereby contributing to improved access to essential health services and support to enhanced national health system performance. This was achieved through specialized workshops on parenting, mental health and psychosocial support quality assurance, tuberculosis service delivery, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and drug use prevention. These workshops enhanced the skills of counsellors, healthcare providers, physicians, and lab experts nationwide. The strengthened capacities in HIV-related national immunization technical advisory support, and quality assurance frameworks further supported healthcare service delivery and advocacy efforts.

Technical support was provided to improve access to essential healthcare services. This included supporting

the development, adaptation, or updating of 19 knowledge products aimed at strengthening national health strategies, particularly “triple elimination” of HIV, hepatitis, and syphilis. This support led to key milestones, including the pre-validation assessment for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission, the development of surveillance research training materials, the enhancement of the Management Information System, and the formulation of a roadmap to scale up community-led responses to end acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) by 2030. Furthermore, United Nations agencies assisted in the creation of a monitoring and evaluation framework aligned with national HIV structures, enabling the tracking of progress on the Global AIDS Strategy. Ongoing technical and financial assistance ensured the accurate collection and reporting of Global AIDS Monitoring data, informing both national and international health policies.

Key achievements:



Intermediate Outcome indicator 2.1:

The health system is resilient and addresses a range of risks in diverse settings and emergencies.



965
Duty bearers capacitated



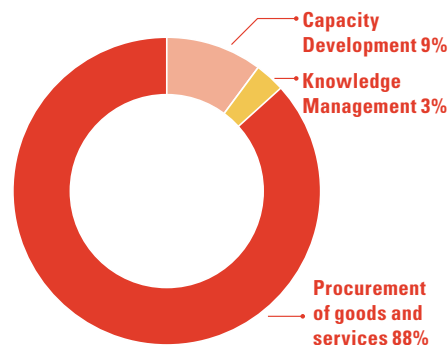
8,237,191
Essential items produced



19
Knowledge products developed



529,500
Persons potentially benefitted



Intermediate Outcome 2.2:

All relevant partners contribute to addressing health determinants and risk factors and promote healthy lifestyles.



1,280
Duty bearers capacitated



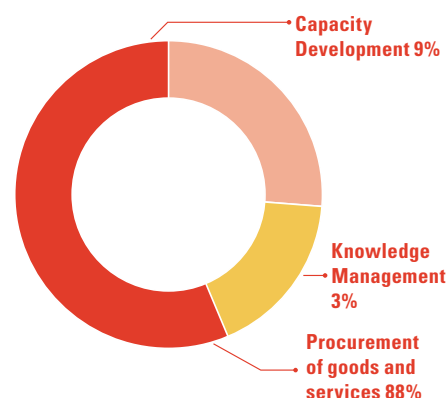
2,812,917
Essential items produced



15
Knowledge products developed



2,490,459
Persons potentially benefitted



In the realm of healthcare provision, the United Nations facilitated access to essential medicines, medical supplies, and equipment for over 500,000 potential beneficiaries. This was achieved through the procurement of 8,237,191 essential health items. Key achievements include the provision of 2,000 HIV rapid test quality assurance kits, the expansion of 10 high-quality cold storage facilities, the procurement of over 1.5 million HIV rapid diagnostic test kits, hepatitis C test kits, and a wide range of essential HIV treatment medications. Additionally, the United Nations supported national healthcare infrastructure including by funding health workers in prisons (100), mobile clinics (10), as well as procuring 18 mobile clinics and 11 mobile stations. Further contributions included the procurement of over 2.4 million needles and syringes, and essential diagnostic and treatment equipment for HIV, hepatitis, and tuberculosis, including GeneXpert machines for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) diagnosis, CD4 counting and viral load testing, two X-ray units, and early infant diagnosis test kits.

The capacity of 1280 duty bearers was strengthened across both health and non-health sectors to strengthen equitable health and social determinants of health through targeted training and advocacy efforts. Key achievements include the enhancement of vaccine regulation and manufacturing capabilities, training frontline workers on disability inclusion, and supporting the development of formal care systems for the elderly. Additionally, national counterparts were equipped to implement social determinants of health protocols in primary healthcare. Local networks were established to promote healthy settings, and healthcare providers in long-term care facilities were trained to deliver quality, inclusive services.

The government's efforts to strengthening health equities were supported by the United Nations through developing, adapting, or updating 15 normative and strategic documents, such as a demo UI/UX prototype for accessible digital textbooks for children with disabilities,

a landscape analysis on assistive technology access, and the translation of a disability inclusion training package for frontline workers. Moreover, multi-partnership frameworks were strengthened to advance key developmental health indicators, technical publications on tobacco control were finalized, and a national protocol for integrating social determinants of health into primary healthcare was developed.

Over 2.4 million people in vulnerable situation potentially benefited through the provision of 2,812,917 medical supplies supported by the UN, thereby strengthening their access to essential health and social services. Key achievements include enhancing educational accessibility for students with visual impairments through the procurement of a Braille embosser, benefiting more than 7,000 students; supporting vitamin A supplementation for 500,000 people, covering half of the target population;

and providing malaria medicines, prostheses, hygiene kits and training for people with disabilities. Additionally, access to quality vaccines for over 2.7 million people was improved through the procurement of vaccine vial monitors. Emergency preparedness was further strengthened with medical kits for severe injuries, tents, and malaria insecticides. Initiatives promoting healthy settings, including the establishment of 10 healthy cities and the pilot implementation of social determinants of health in primary healthcare across seven districts, have improved health equity and reduced risks for 570,000 people.

Delivering as One UN: Improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in the I.R. of Iran

In 2024, the Flagship Programme for Persons with Disabilities was launched in 2023 by WHO, UNICEF, and UNFPA. The flagship programme has driven meaningful progress in inclusion, resilience, and accessibility for persons with disabilities in Iran.



To improve inclusive service delivery, 410 professionals and frontline workers in early childhood education, mental health, and emergency response and UN agencies were trained using a Disability Inclusion Training Package. This initiative strengthened their ability to provide inclusive and effective support. “I had never really thought about the needs of people with disabilities and never put my feet in their shoes. Today, during the Power Walk game, I had the role of a refugee girl living with disability and I imagined how it feels for moments. I will never forget this feeling and experience,” said one of the training participants.



For the first time in Iran, an earthquake drill was conducted in a special school for children with mobility impairments. Additionally, newly developed guidelines introduced tailored disaster preparedness strategies for children with autism, hearing impairments, and physical disabilities, setting a new standard for inclusive risk reduction.



Building on prior efforts and in 2021, the United Nations established isolation rooms in 30 facilities across 13 provinces, developed 13 risk reduction guidelines, and trained 150 caregivers—ultimately benefiting over 7,000 older persons and people with disabilities. In 2024, the Government conducted a study through support of the United Nations showed that the interventions have had significant positive impacts on outbreak preparedness, reduced infections, improved care, and lowered costs.



To promote independence and mobility, 1,099 persons with severe disabilities from low-income households in Sistan and Baluchestan—including 32% women and 18% refugees—received essential assistive technologies such as wheelchairs, walkers, and blind canes. Additionally, they gained access to aids for daily living, including portable toilet seats and transfer boards, improving their daily functionality and quality of life.





To support learning opportunities, a Braille embosser was procured for the Ministry of Education and Special Education Organization, ensuring 2,500 students with visual impairments could access inclusive educational materials. This intervention addressed 30% of the total national need.



Economic empowerment remained a key focus, with 135 women with disabilities in Kerman and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad receiving vocational training. Among them, 20 women participated in specialized e-commerce training through an innovative UN-led partnership with the Technical and Vocational Training Organization and the private sector, expanding their employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.



“

To low-income households in Sistan and Baluchestan received essential assistive technologies.

©WHO Iran - 2024



Environmental conservation,
integrated natural resources
management and addressing
climate resilience



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND ADDRESSING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

BY 2027, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ARE ENHANCED, AND THE CAPACITY TO ADDRESS CLIMATE RESILIENCE IS STRENGTHENED.



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 3.1:

Support for an environmentally friendly economy, including through the sustainable use of natural resources, is developed in all sectors.



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 3.2:

Effective management of habitats and conservation of biodiversity support the health and sustainable services of ecosystems.



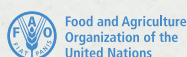
INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 3.3:

Institutional capacities on climate action enhanced through climate informed support for innovative technological solutions, and international advocacy for climate finance.

Chaired by:

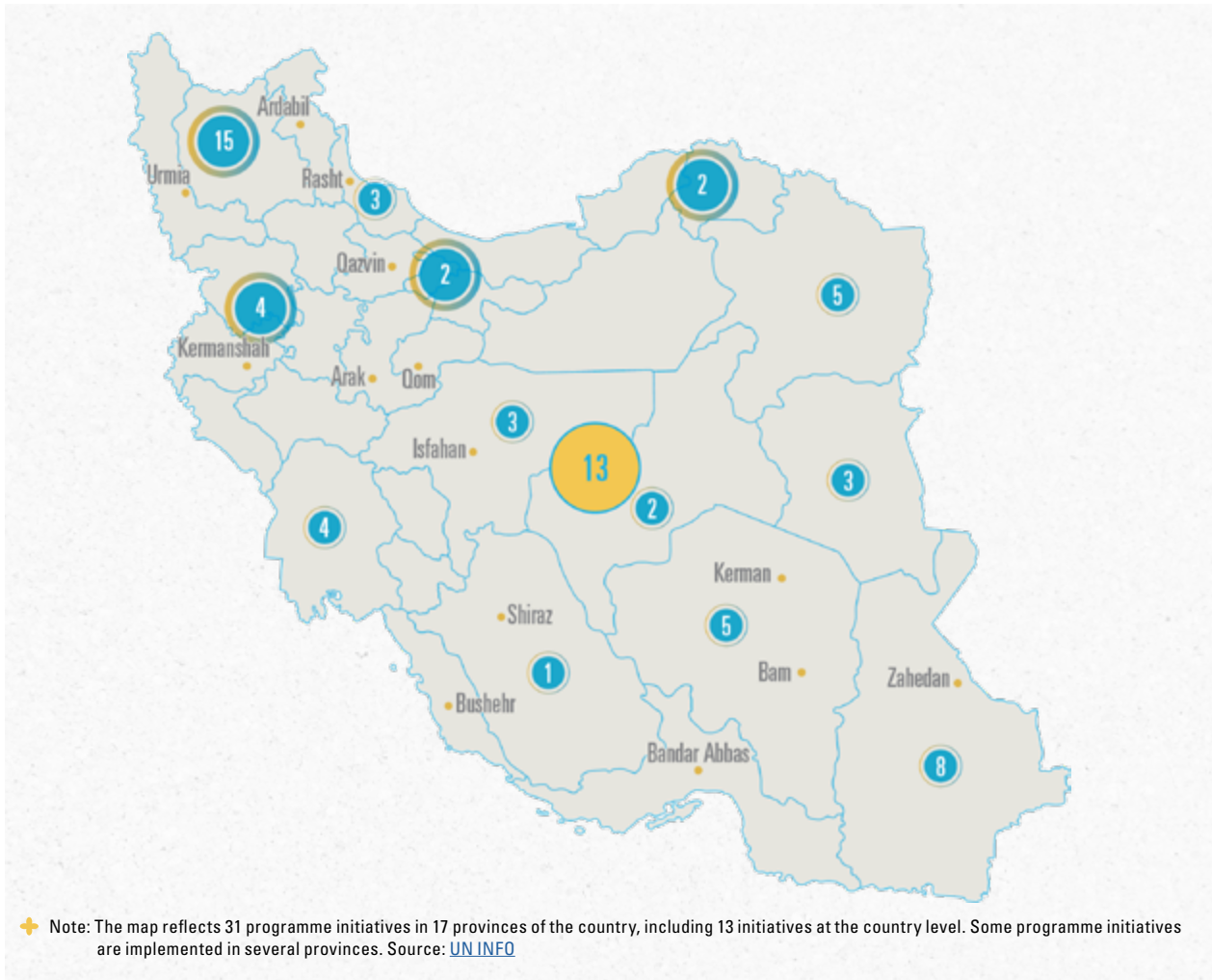


Contributing UN agencies:



Expenditure:

US\$ 2.3 million



Key achievements:

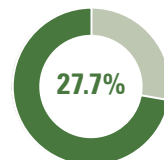


Natural Resource Management of Habitats and Biodiversity Conservation

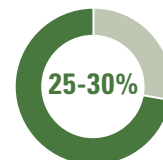


5,400 Hectares

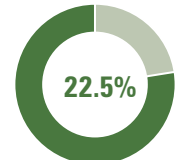
Piloted in East Azerbaijan, West Azerbaijan, Fars, and Khuzestan under the Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project



Reduction in water consumption



Reduction in agrochemical use



Increase in crop yield



192 Hectares

of orchards in Kerman, Yazd, and Khorasan Razavi benefited from increased water productivity and efficiency



13

Sustainable wetland conservation plans formulated and promoted



35 Smallholder Herders

Benefited from the development of mobile biotechnology lab for Bactrian Camel breeding in Ardabil province



People-centered initiatives



11,729

People benefitting from adaptation capacities



11,000

Young people with enhanced skills to design and implement community-based climate actions



Institutional Capacities on Climate Action



Supported relevant authorities to measure sources of air pollution



Enhanced real-time SDS monitoring and forecasting and improved SDS action plan



39.47 ODP tonnes

Reduction, surpassing Montreal Protocol targets



61 Universities

and MoHME capacitated to evaluate climate-driven policies, carbon-reduction options, and health co-benefits



≈1000 Hospitals

Supported to assess climate resilience and carbon footprint reduction

In 2024, the United Nations in the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to support the government's efforts towards climate adaptation, mitigation of climate change impact, and the integrated management of natural resources, with a strong focus on biodiversity conservation. These joint efforts have led to measurable impacts on both the environment and local communities.

In sustainable natural resource management and agriculture, the United Nations supported the implementation of innovative practices across 5,400 hectares in East and West Azerbaijan, Fars, and Khuzestan provinces. In these areas, these practices contributed to a 27.7% reduction in water consumption, a 25%-30% decrease in agrochemical use, and a 22.5% increase in crop yields. Additionally, water productivity and efficiency for pistachio crops over 192 hectares in Kerman, Yazd, and Khorasan Razavi improved, enhancing the resilience of these crops to climate change.

Through the Iranian wetlands project, the United Nations supported the development and advocated for 13 plans focused on wetland conservation, contributing to both environmental sustainability and improved livelihoods. Through the implementation of climate-smart agriculture practices, water efficiency and productivity

were enhanced in 192 hectares of orchards, resulting in pistachio crop resilience to climate change in the drought-prone provinces of Kerman, Yazd, and Khorasan Razavi. Biodiversity conservation was strengthened by establishing a mobile biotechnology lab mechanism providing reproduction and veterinary services to the Bactrian Camel, an endangered breed, empowering 35 smallholder herders and contributing to sustainable livestock practices in Ardabil province.

The United Nations supported the government in phasing out ozone-depleting substances equivalent to 39.47 tonnes of ozone-depleting potential—exceeding Montreal Protocol targets.

Nearly 1,000 hospitals received support for the mainstreaming of climate-resilience assessments, carbon footprint reduction, and water, sanitation and hygiene systems. This work integrated climate adaptation and health co-benefits into the healthcare sector. Furthermore, the capacity of 61 universities and the Ministry of Health and Medical Education was strengthened in the assessment of climate-driven policies and carbon-reduction options, ensuring the integration of climate change considerations into health planning.

A total of 11,729 people across two instances benefited from the United Nations-supported climate-adaptation-focused initiative in water and sewage management. The initiatives included the construction of a sewage treatment plant and the rehabilitation of a water supply network in the most water-scarce provinces of Iran.

Through the “Green DADRAS” initiative funded by the UNICEF Climate Fund and in partnership with the Iranian Red Crescent Society, the United Nations supported the training of 45 master trainers and 824 local trainers in 824 schools on climate change. These instructors subsequently trained over 11,000 students across the country who enhanced their skills and capacities to address local climate resilience, raise awareness among community members and design and implement community-based solutions.

The UN supported the government of Iran by deploying advanced technologies to improve data storage, modelling, and processing, thereby enhancing the accuracy of sand and dust storm event forecasting. To address air pollution, the United Nations supported the government in applying recent technologies to utilize real-time data, enabling a swift response to pollution spikes, tracking trends, and implementing more effective air quality management strategies.

Through the aforementioned efforts, the United Nations supported the government’s climate action agenda, from enhancing agricultural resilience and conserving biodiversity to promoting sustainable resource management.

Over 11,000 high school students from across Iran benefit from climate literacy



Young girls and boys aged 12 to 15 years from across Iran benefited from climate literacy programmes, as part of an Initiative launched jointly by UN Iran and the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS). The newly launched Green DADRAS Initiative, guided by the Climate Change Secretariat of the IRCS, has equipped 46 master trainers from the Youth Organization of the IRCS to lead educational sessions on climate change for students. The trainers will further train provincial trainers across the country to empower over 10,000 high school students within DADRAS teams, focusing on critical topics such as drought and floods. The initiative will enable these students to design and implement impactful climate change-related campaigns within their schools and communities.



Having received education on the importance of climate change, these young minds will then be equipped with the knowledge and tools they need to make informed decisions and take proactive measures to protect our planet and its precious environment. Considering the significant impact of climate change globally, regionally and also in Iran, this initiative is considered a crucial step towards securing a better future for the next generation.



Green DADRAS initiative guided by Climate Change Secretariat of IRCS to promote climate literacy among high schoolers.

©UNICEF Iran - 2024



Disaster Risk Reduction and Management



© Kaveh Seyedahmadian



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

BY 2027, THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL RESILIENCE TO DISASTER IMPACTS IS ENHANCED BY IMPROVING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY.



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 4.1:

Disaster risk reduction is integrated into development planning and programmes, and institutional capacities for effective disaster preparedness, response and recovery are strengthened.



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 4.2:

Capacities of people in the area of disaster resilience, risk reduction and preparedness are enhanced.

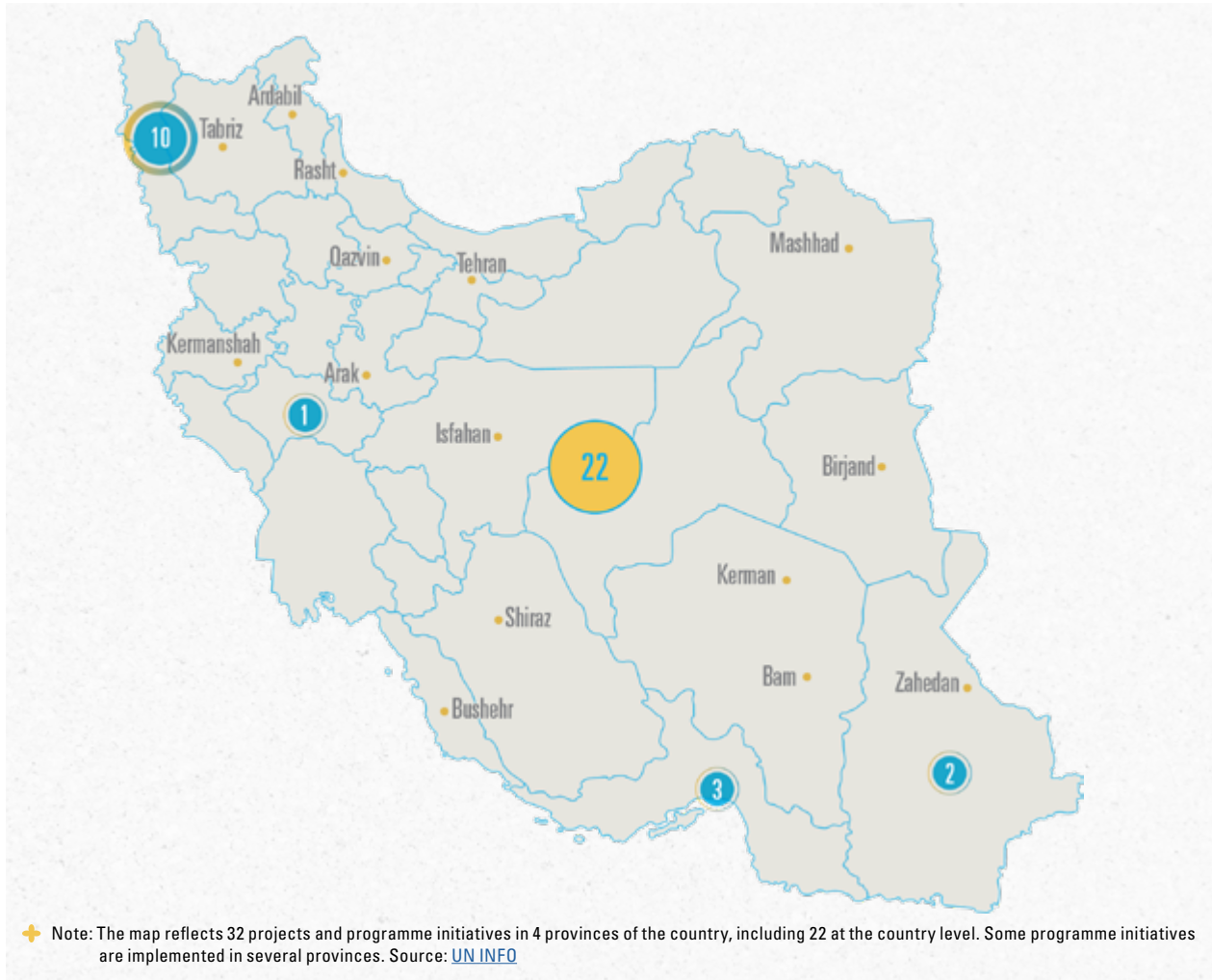
Facilitator (internal):  **IOM**
UN MIGRATION

Contributing UN agencies:



Expenditure:

US\$ 3.8 million



Key achievements:



70 units
of disinfection systems, **50,000** people



Prepositioning **2,160**
disaster kits



Distribution of **5,491**
hygiene kits, benefiting 4,724 households and 22,090 people in Sistan and Baluchestan



Winterization and multipurpose cash to earthquake affected populations in Khoy County



Health



2,000 Pregnant and lactating women received cash voucher assistance in Sistan and Baluchestan



29 Health facilities equipped with 163 reproductive health kits in Sistan and Baluchestan



2 Helal clinics equipped with medical devices in Hormozgan and Sistan and Baluchestan



36 Health facilities in Khoy equipped with ICT devices



Development of the PHC resilience assessment tool



Enhanced access to primary healthcare for disaster-affected families



Preparedness



Comprehensive evaluation of Iran's Urban Search and Rescue teams for INSARAG External Classification, operational readiness and capabilities



Knowledge exchange and transfer on humanitarian preparedness and response



Community Engagement



Enhanced community support system and resilience through 700 volunteers across seven provinces



Enhanced capacities of 31 youth NGOs on emergency preparedness, mental health and psychosocial support

In 2024, the relevant government entities, national partners and the United Nations worked to strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience, improve public health responses, expand access to essential services for people in vulnerable situation and provide life-saving support to those affected by natural disasters through 32 programme interventions in four provinces of the country, including 22 programme interventions at the country level.

In collaboration with the Plan and Budget Organization, joint capacity-building initiatives enhanced the ability of the government organizations to bridge scientific knowledge with policy and practice for more effective risk reduction strategies and equipped national experts with the necessary skills to integrate disaster risk reduction into development planning and budgeting, promoting risk-informed decision-making and sustainable resource allocation.

The national capacity for disaster-resilient healthcare infrastructure was strengthened through the development of national guidelines for the multi-hazard design of resilient hospitals in collaboration with the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development and the Plan and Budget Organization. National capacities were further improved through an external classification evaluation of Iran's urban search and rescue teams under the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group framework. In cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, the United Nations supported the development of earthquake preparedness guidelines for children with visual impairments and a primary healthcare resilience assessment tool for capacity-building initiatives for healthcare workers.

Climate resilience was strengthened with the launch of an impact-based forecasting project with the



Iran Meteorological Organization, which focused on forecasting sand and dust storms, improving climate-related event preparedness. Preparedness measures and institutional capacity development enhanced the resilience of agrifood systems, reinforcing food security during crises.

Collaboration among national authorities and United Nations agencies facilitated emergency response efforts in Sistan and Baluchestan province, struck by massive floods in early 2024. Joint planning and assessment ensured the provision of effective support to the affected communities. 70 desalination units were installed, ensuring clean drinking water for over 50,000 people. In addition, a 300 m³ water tank was set up in the Konar and Kanban villages to provide a stable water supply. More than 4,700 households in flood-affected areas received 5,491 hygiene kits and 2,160 prepositioned disaster kits, thus improving their health and living conditions. Provision of quality health services was facilitated by equipping 29 health facilities in this province with 163 reproductive health kits 2,000 pregnant and lactating women in flood-affected areas received cash vouchers distributed by the UN, to support reproductive healthcare services, transportation and nutrition.

As part of the recovery efforts in the aftermath of the earthquake that struck Khoy County of the West

Azerbaijan province in 2023, cash and voucher intervention enabled 1,187 households to meet their basic needs. The emergency health response system was strengthened through upgrading 36 facilities with ICT devices and equipping two emergency centres in both Khoy and Urmia.

As part of a community-based child protection and mental health programme supported by the United Nations, 700 national volunteers across seven provinces of Iran – Tehran, Alborz, Khuzestan, North Khorasan, Razavi Khorasan, Fars, Qom, and Golestan provinces – were equipped with essential skills on psychological first aid to be delivered to communities affected by natural disasters. In collaboration with the Ministry of Sports and Youth, an operational response team was established, and 31 youth NGOs enhanced their skills in emergency preparedness and mental health and psychosocial assistance to the disaster-affected population through a series of trainings facilitated by the UN.

In 2024, as part of the promotion of urban resilience through the Making Cities Resilient initiative, Hamedan city was recognized as a resilience hub. As a resilience hub, Hamedan will play a crucial role in city-to-city collaborations to enhance knowledge sharing, capacity building, and creating learning opportunities for urban resilience.



Procurement of 2,900 hygiene kits for flood-affected families in Sistan and Baluchestan

In the wake of the devastating floods that struck Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan province in February 2024, the United Nations in Iran actively engaged in providing critical assistance to the affected communities, including women and children. As part of this humanitarian response to the flood-affected communities, children and families in the villages of Dashtiari district received 2,900 hygiene packs, tailored to their immediate hygienic needs. Additionally, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and the Ministry of Energy, prioritized the provision of safe water and sanitation services to households and communities affected by the disaster to ensure that children and families stay safe and healthy.



Providing hygiene kits for flood-affected families in Sistan and Baluchestan.
©UNICEF Iran - 2024



V OUTCOME Drug Control

© Kaveh Seyedahmadian



DRUG CONTROL

**BY 2027, MORE PEOPLE OF IRAN ARE PROTECTED FROM DRUG USE,
AND THE CAPACITY FOR EFFECTIVE BORDER MANAGEMENT AND
COUNTERING ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IS ENHANCED.**



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 5.1:

Access to evidence-based drug prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and drug-related protection services is improved.



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 5.2:

National capacity for effective border management and illicit trafficking control, including drug-related crime, is improved.

Chaired by:



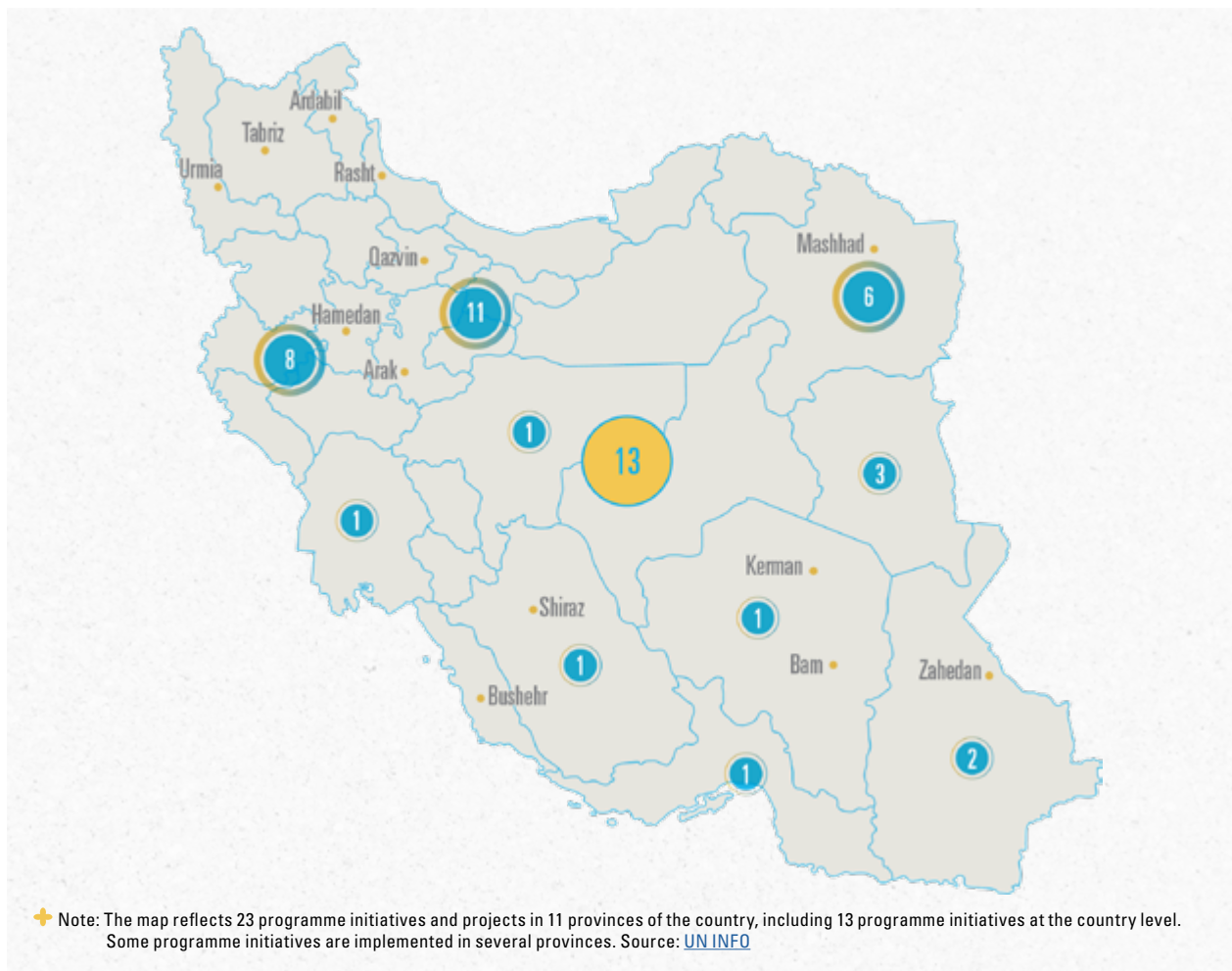
United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime

Contributing UN agencies:



Expenditure:

US\$ 1 million



In 2024, the United Nations in Iran continued to support national efforts in drug use prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and social integration, with a focus on people at risk of HIV and strengthening national capacities for effective border management and countering illicit trafficking. A total of 23 programmatic initiatives were implemented in 11 provinces in Iran, including 13 national-level interventions.

Key achievements:

Indicator 5.1.1_a:

Drug demand reduction programme developed with UN support in accordance with the agreed international human rights, prevention and treatment standards is taken-up by the Government of Iran and included among national programmes.



The Drug Use Prevention Strengthening Families (SFP), originally introduced by the UN, is now taken-up by the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME) and included among national drug use prevention programme and routinely implemented by Universities of Medical Science across the country.

Indicator 5.1.1_b:

Innovative services in HIV and drug use prevention and treatment delivered with UN support.



The services provided by Youth Well-being programme for youth in vulnerable situation in Kermanshah and Khorasan Razavi provinces have been welcomed by the government and preliminary plans for expansion of the programmes are being considered by the government.



Empowering women by introducing rehabilitation programmes via CSOs, including the establishment of bakeries and sewing workshops.



Capacity development



260

Duty bearers capacitated through Strong Families Programme



86%

Duty bearers women



2,740

Beneficiaries reached



35

Duty bearers from MoHME and SWO capacitated on the assessment and drug use disorder treatment counselling



Manual on Process Evaluation of Harm Reduction



51

Officers from the Iranian Anti-Narcotic Police trained on precursor control, countering the use of cryptocurrency in drug trafficking, and combating drug smuggling across various transport modes



Partnerships/ Knowledge sharing



383

Duty bearers capacitated on Positive Parenting youth and HIV and Drug Prevention



9,195

Beneficiaries reached



58%

Beneficiaries women



38%

Beneficiaries girls



4

Manual on Positive Parenting Youth Well-being programme



Direct support



20

Evaluators trained on the effectiveness of Buprenorphine with Methadone Substitution Treatment



98

Women drug users benefited from harm reduction and tailored treatment in Shoush, Tehran



Support function

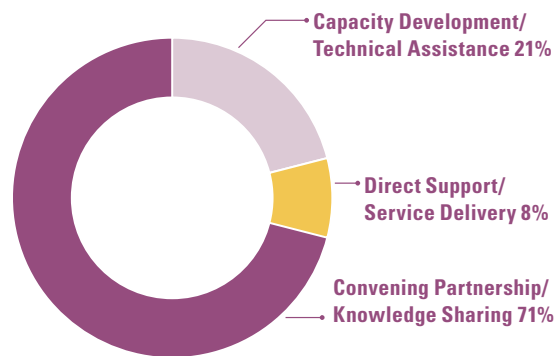


6

Essential drug identification devices procured to increase operational capacity of Anti-Narcotics Police

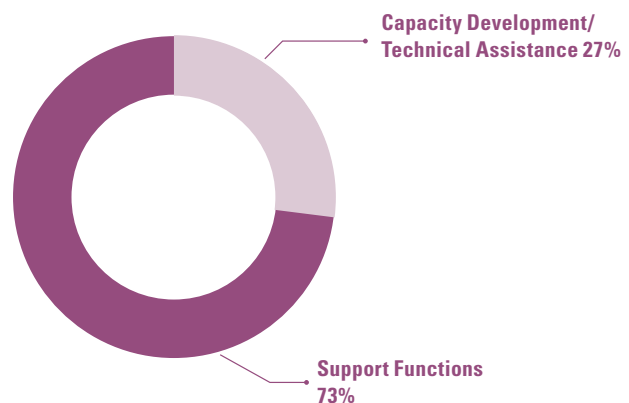
Intermediate Outcome indicator 5.1:

Access to evidence-based drug prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and drug-related protection services is improved.



Intermediate Outcome 5.2:

National capacity for effective border management and illicit trafficking control, including drug-related crime, is improved.



National experts in primary health care and schools were capacitated on complementary family skills and parenting schemes through a series of trainings as part of the Strong Families Programme. These endeavours resulted in improved capacities of 220 counsellors who subsequently reached 1,320 children and 1,420 parents in Tehran, Lorestan, Kerman, Sistan and Baluchestan, Hormozgan, Khorasan Razavi and Khuzestan provinces, promoting positive family interactions.

Approximately 5,600 parents, including Afghan parents, were empowered to create a healthier, safer, and more supportive home environment for their children. This was achieved through the youth Positive Parenting trainings, delivered by 186 trained primary health care and school counsellors to parents in the Qom and Khorasan Razavi provinces. The quality of family-oriented services was enhanced through the targeted training of 40 counsellors (36 women) on evaluation procedures.

Over 3,535 youth in vulnerable situation in Kermanshah and Khorasan Razavi provinces gained access to a safe, enabling, and supportive environment that has helped them adopt healthier lifestyles and practices. Through the Youth Well-Being Programme, these youth have acquired effective communication, problem-solving, and emotional regulation skills, which enable them to make informed decisions and navigate daily challenges while avoiding drug use and HIV.

National capacities for assessing and providing psychological therapy for drug use disorders strengthened, leading to improved service delivery and data-driven decision-making. Through the TreatNet Training Programme, 35 health professionals from the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME) and the State Welfare Organization in Tehran and Alborz provinces enhanced their knowledge and skills in evidence-based treatment approaches. Additionally, trainings of prison counsellors and MoHME professionals on data collection for evaluating buprenorphine and methadone treatment in prisons across North Khorasan, Sistan and Baluchestan, Khuzestan and Fars provinces contributed to more effective monitoring and evaluation of opioid substitution therapy, supporting informed policy and programmatic adjustments.

Access to harm reduction services has been improved through enhanced evaluation mechanisms and better on-the-ground implementation of targeted interventions,

supported by the United Budget, Results and Accountability Framework funding. A comprehensive assessment of harm reduction programmes led to the development of a tailored qualitative-quantitative framework for process evaluation under the Iran Country Envelope. This resulted in a knowledge product with recommendations, strengthening evidence-based policymaking and improving service effectiveness. In collaboration with two civil society organizations (CSO), the United Nations supported overcoming gaps in harm reduction and treatment service provision for women who use drugs in the southern part of Tehran, introducing innovative measures to enhance HIV care and contain the health and social consequences of drug use.

Partnerships and collaboration between national stakeholders, CSO and the United Nations in Iran have also been strengthened, ensuring a more coordinated and sustainable approach to drug use prevention, treatment, and care. Facilitated by the United Nations, 197 counsellors, social workers, and volunteers from 35 non-governmental organizations across 24 provinces have strengthened their technical capacity to provide quality support to youth in vulnerable situation and their families. Through five specialized training workshops on drug and HIV prevention, outreach strategies, and risk reduction counselling techniques, frontline service providers are now better equipped to deliver effective interventions. Youth in vulnerable situation in Kermanshah and Khorasan Razavi provinces benefited from expanded preventive services through the Youth Well-being Programme, implemented with United Nations support.

A total of 51 officers from Iran's Anti-Narcotic Police received training on precursor control, countering the use of cryptocurrency in drug trafficking, and intercepting smuggling across various transport modes. This capacity-building initiative has strengthened the investigative skills of the law enforcement officers for tackling drug trafficking crimes. The operational capabilities of the Anti-Narcotics Police were supported through the procurement of essential drug identification equipment, including four advanced drug identification devices and one x-ray body scanner, enabling faster and more effective interception of illicit substances.

Strong Families Programme Impacts Communities Across Iran



In a bid to fortify family structures and strengthen societal resilience, with support of the United Nations in Iran, the Government conducted a workshop on the Island of Kish aiming to strengthen parenting, youth mental health and resilience. Participants from Tehran, Kerman, Lorestan, Khuzestan, Khorasan Razavi, Hormozgan, and Sistan and Baluchestan provinces actively participated in the workshop.



This activity was carried out by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in partnership with Iran's Drug Control Headquarters and the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Sciences. Dr. Kabiri, one of the participants, said that "Thanks to the Strong Families Programme, many parents have said it has been the first time in years that 'we had any shared activity or played games with our children.'"



The Strong Families Programme has been further refined to align with Iranian society, yielding notable improvements in family dynamics and resilience. To ensure sustainability, UNODC Iran prioritized cascade training of trainers and collaborations with medical universities to amplify the programme's impact.



The Strong Families Programme in a school in Varamin, near Tehran.

©UNODC Iran - 2022





2.3. Support to refugees and host communities



© Kavet Seyedahmadian



Coordinated by: **UNHCR**
The UN Refugee Agency

Contributing agencies:

INTERSOS, IOM, ITC, NRC, RI, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, WFP, WHO

Expenditure:

US\$ 52 million

Note: The figure includes expenditures in 2024 for UN entities only (including donor contributions, core funding and government cost-sharing).



Key achievements:

126,000

refugees and host community children benefitted from improved access to primary and secondary education.



4,500

people partook in the vocational trainings and received support for income-generating activities.



1.5 million

refugees and Iranians benefitted from improved access to health care.



39,000

host community members and refugees received non-food items and shelter.



362,000

people received protection assistance.



90,000

refugees and host community members benefited from improved access to water supply and sanitation.



31,000

refugees received cash-based and in-kind food assistance in refugee settlements.



63,000

people received multipurpose cash assistance.



Transforming Lives: Key Achievements in Refugee and Host Community Support

In support of the Government of Iran efforts and in partnership with humanitarian actors, the 14 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners (INTEROS, IOM, ITC, NRC, RI, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, WFP, WHO) have made significant strides in improving the well-being of refugees and host communities across key sectors, ensuring that no one is left behind. Through targeted interventions in education, healthcare, protection, livelihoods, and basic services, RRP programmes contributed to creating opportunities for people in vulnerable situation, improving their quality of life, and fostering resilience.

Expanding Access to Quality Education

The RRP programmes improved access to primary and secondary education for over 125,000 refugee and host community children, equipping them with the tools to build a better future. More than 20,000 children now learn in better environments, thanks to the construction, rehabilitation, and equipping of schools. Recognizing the importance of education for all, 18,000 primary and secondary school-aged girls and boys received cash assistance, reducing financial barriers to school attendance. Additionally, 12,000 children - 90% of them Afghan - enhanced their literacy skills through dedicated training programmes, strengthening their prospects for school retention and long-term self-reliance.

Strengthening Healthcare and Well-Being

Access of 1.5 million refugees and host community members to essential healthcare was improved, ensuring timely medical treatment and preventive care. Contributions to hospital construction, rehabilitation, equipment, and supplies, as well as medical staff salaries, directly benefited 870,000 people. Furthermore, 95,000 Afghan refugees were provided with free universal primary health insurance, reducing financial burdens and ensuring life-saving care for those in need. Ensuring that poor people can meet their basic needs, 31,000 refugees in settlements received cash-based and in-kind food assistance, improving food security.

Enhancing Protection

Legal and protection support remained a cornerstone of humanitarian efforts, with 362,000 people receiving assistance. This included in-person and remote counselling to 244,000 people, enabling them to make informed decisions about their futures. Additionally, 10,000 people accessed legal aid, while 3,900 people were supported in their voluntary repatriation or resettlement process, helping them transition to new opportunities with dignity and security.

Empowering Families Through Financial Support and Livelihood Opportunities

To help families meet their essential needs with dignity, 63,000 people received multipurpose cash assistance. Cash assistance enabled recipients to make household decisions that best support their well-being. This included 161 households of refugees with disabilities, for whom this financial support was crucial to sustain their livelihoods. Through vocational and technical trainings and support to establish or expand businesses, 4,500 refugees gained access to livelihood support. This economic empowerment was a key factor for community resilience and integration in the local communities.

Improving Shelter and Basic Services

To safeguard living conditions, 39,000 host community members—97% of them Iranians affected by disasters—and refugees in settlements received non-food items and shelter assistance. Additionally, the distribution of hygiene items, the construction and rehabilitation of water supply systems, and the installation of latrines and communal bathing facilities have improved water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions for 90,000 people, significantly enhancing public health outcomes.

The above-listed interventions have demonstrated the ongoing commitment of the United Nations and its NGO partners to supporting refugees and host communities, ensuring access to essential services, and promoting long-term resilience in Iran.



Success story: Sustainable Development and Environment-Friendly Programmes Improve Refugee Lives



Over 50,000 refugees and thousands of host community members now enjoy safer communities, as a result of about 3,600 solar-powered streetlights installed in 15 refugee-populated settlements and neighbourhoods in the years 2023 and 2024. “We are happy,” rejoices Zahra Khavari, an Afghan refugee in Torbat-e Jam settlement. “Our children can now play at night. This is great to feel safe in the streets.”



Beyond safety, the project extends business hours for small enterprises, fostering economic activity and social ties between refugees and local communities. Refugees actively participated in the programme, gaining employment and a sense of ownership. In parallel, 90,000 refugees and host community members have benefited from improved hygiene services. Infrastructure upgrades, including new water supply systems, latrines, and communal baths, have significantly enhanced public health in refugee settlements.



Looking ahead, the Regional Refugee Response Plan aims to expand environmental initiatives by installing solar panels to provide free electricity for 800 refugee families and developing sustainable water and sewage treatment systems to serve 20,000 refugees.



By reducing reliance on traditional energy sources, such initiatives promote low-carbon development. The solar streetlights alone prevent 152 tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually, equivalent to the carbon absorbed by 720 hectares of forest. This initiative also highlights Iran’s commitment to refugee protection and demonstrates how sustainable solutions can address both humanitarian and environmental challenges alike.



Workers put up a solar streetlight in Bardsir settlement, Iran.

©UNHCR Iran - 2024





2.4. Support to partnerships and financing

© Kaveh Seyedahmadian

The United Nations' multi-sectoral partnerships in Iran have proven to be a crucial mechanism for addressing socio-economic vulnerabilities, environmental challenges, public health concerns, and drug control. These collaborations have not only enhanced service delivery but also shaped policy frameworks, strengthened institutional capacities, and facilitated knowledge transfer, leading to systemic and sustainable impacts.

The UN's continued engagement with Iranian institutions in 2024 has resulted in tangible progress in tackling environmental challenges, particularly in energy sustainability, water stress, soil erosion, food security, and air pollution control. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture has leveraged FAO and UNDP support to promote sustainable farming practices, combat soil erosion, and strengthen food security measures.

The partnership between UNICEF, the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare, and the Plan and Budget Organization has been instrumental in shaping Iran's social protection landscape. By generating evidence and analysis on child multidimensional poverty, these efforts have influenced public financial management and reinforced advocacy for equitable, child-sensitive social protection services. The implementation of cash-plus initiatives targeting children in vulnerable situation has played a critical role in mitigating the socio-economic impacts of economic downturns and unilateral sanctions on the affected households.

A significant dimension of socio-economic resilience has been the integration of traditional markets into digital ecosystems. The United Nations' partnership with Digikala, Iran's leading e-commerce platform, has enabled small-scale producers to transition to digital markets, fostering entrepreneurship and expanding economic opportunities.

During 2024, data-driven decision-making has been a key focus area for the United Nations which facilitated partnerships between Iran, UNESCAP and the Turkish Statistics System to support capacity-building for the Statistical Center of Iran.

Knowledge transfer initiatives, including training programmes in Russia facilitated by UNODC in partnership with the Drug Control Headquarters of Iran and the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, throughout 2024, have enhanced the operational capabilities of Iranian law enforcement agencies. Enabling access to multilateral financing and good practices in policy remain core to the work of the United Nations. UNDP's partnership with the Ministry of Energy has facilitated advancements in renewable energy, improved energy efficiency, and established a National Financing Mechanism.

Capacity-building initiatives were continued in 2024, and UNICEF helped enhance the expertise of social workers and volunteers across 24 provinces, strengthening community-based approaches to drug use prevention, treatment, and care. The United Nations's engagement (including UNHCR, IOM, WFP, and UN-Habitat) with bilateral and multilateral donors such as the Global Fund, ECHO, UBRAF, Italy, Norway, and KOICA has facilitated the expansion of essential healthcare services and community-led responses.

Partnerships with local networks and civil society organizations by multiple United Nations entities including UNHCR, WHO, and UNAIDS have been instrumental in facilitating progress on various initiatives, including outreach to less advantaged populations, including Afghan refugees, persons with disabilities, and those at risk of HIV, hepatitis, and tuberculosis, in identification of needs, and design of intervention and its execution. Academic and research institutions have complemented these efforts by advancing epidemiological surveillance, monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Regional cooperation and South-South cooperation have been a cornerstone of Iran's environmental strategy, and UN-Iran has worked closely with the Department of Environment in managing transboundary environmental issues, including efforts to reduce the sources of dust storms and the establishment of a regional monitoring and prevention fund.



Peace with Earth: Danone and Hyperstar join forces with UN Iran for sustainability



Building on the success of the “We’re Going to Go Green Soon” campaign jointly executed with Lamiz Coffee in 2023, which provided valuable access to the public, particularly youth, in 2024 the United Nations in Iran took another step toward promoting sustainability. In collaboration with Danone and Hyperstar, UNDP Iran launched the “Peace with Earth” campaign in September 2024.



Aligned with “World Peace Day” and the “Back-to-School” season, this initiative was launched to raise awareness about plastic pollution by replacing plastic straws with eco-friendly paper ones in 15,000 Danone Danette Drinkable Desserts across four Hyperstar locations in three provinces of Iran. The “Peace with Earth” campaign not only highlighted the importance of sustainable living and wildlife protection but also demonstrated the power of public-private partnerships in inspiring meaningful change and raising awareness amongst the public. By engaging a wide range of audience, particularly youth, the initiative showcased a collective commitment to reducing single-use plastics and fostering a more sustainable future.

Replacing plastic straws with eco-friendly paper ones in 15,000 Danone Danette Drinkable Desserts

©UNDP Iran - 2024





© Kaveh Seyedahmadian





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



Increasing efficiency and strengthening coordination

The United Nations Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 provides a basis for stronger joint engagement and collaboration, especially for interventions that require integrated responses. On 31 January 2024, the High-Level Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, 64 participants from 27 Government entities and 18 UN resident and non-resident agencies discussed how the UN can best support the Government in advancing its national development priorities, improving coordination, and increasing efficiency in implementing the Cooperation Framework.

One UN Iran Impact Fund

In response to the Khoy earthquake of January 2023, UN-Iran mobilized US\$ 3.64 million in funds through the One UN Impact Fund for Iran, and an allocation from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, IOM, and UNFPA which received the One UN Impact Fund grant continued to help the local communities in Khoy in the process of relief and recovery throughout 2024.

Donor Coordination

To ensure continued donor support for the United Nations development and humanitarian interventions in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in February and June 2024 respectively, two meetings were organized with a cross-section of the diplomatic community accredited in Iran, featuring United Nations presentations on the normative agenda and development financing. Through extensive bilateral outreach to donors, the United Nations advocated with the international community for enhanced support to respond to the challenges faced by Iran, including the refugee influx and impact of the climate change.

Furthering the dialogue on multilateralism, the United Nations in Iran organized a multi-stakeholder meeting on “Enhancing the share of renewable energy in Iran’s national energy mix.” The event brought together representatives from across the Government, academia, United Nations experts, and media as well as the International Renewable Energy Agency, Australian National University, and the UNDP Sustainable Energy Hub to explore pathways to increased adoption of renewable energy, and the role of each stakeholder in the process. This inclusive discussion has since been followed by technical assistance efforts by UNDP.

Joint Advocacy and Communication

In 2024, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Iran continued to enhance coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency, ensuring a strategic and harmonized approach to communication, advocacy, and programme delivery. To promote the United Nations, enhance joint communications and advocacy and amplify programmatic results, the UNCT developed a multi-year Joint Communication Strategy, aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the Islamic Republic of Iran for 2023-2027.

This strategy is operationalized through annual inter-agency work plans, ensuring coordinated and results-driven communications and advocacy. The strategy includes annexes promoting the United Nations’ commitment to inclusive and people-centred programming.

A campaign to mark the United Nations Day strengthened the United Nations’ visibility and coherence by leveraging a One United Nations approach, effectively engaging stakeholders through digital platforms, public events, and traditional media. The commemoration of the World Environment Day jointly with national stakeholders and an art exhibition on this international day built on cross-sectoral collaboration and demonstrated the power of partnerships in advancing environmental advocacy and raising public awareness.

Joint Operations

In 2024, the United Nations’ Operations Management Team in Iran, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Country Team, focused on enhancing operational efficiency and collaboration across United Nations agencies in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The key objectives were cost avoidance amid economic challenges, process simplification, and improved service quality, ultimately strengthening the United Nations’ collective impact on operations. Notable achievements included the implementation of joint help desk services at three common premises, the extension of long-term agreements for essential services such as customs clearance, information and communication technology support, travel, and internet provisions, as well as initiatives promoting women and youth engagement in the workforce, enhanced environmental sustainability, and disability-inclusive recruitment. These efforts streamlined operations, optimized resources, and strengthened inter-agency collaboration in the field of operations, ensuring more effective and responsive programme implementation while enhancing client satisfaction.



Supporting a Just Energy Transition in the Islamic Republic of Iran



Global energy systems are undergoing a fundamental transformation. In view of the climate crisis and the economic potential of the green economy, the Resident Coordinator's Office in Iran in collaboration with UNDP is supporting the Islamic Republic of Iran's steps towards a just energy transition.



Addressing Iran's energy challenges requires comprehensive reforms. With this background, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Energy, the United Nations organized a multi-stakeholder meeting on 10-11 September 2024 bringing together over 100 participants from the government, academia and the private sector to discuss ways to enhance the share of Renewable Energy in the national energy mix. In view of the need for an integrated approach to solve development challenges such as the just energy transition, the United Nations facilitated the participation of the International Renewable Energy Agency, UNDP's Sustainable Energy Hub and Australian National University who presented on the potential for Iran to be a world leader in renewable energy production.



The event has been followed by technical assistance from UNDP and continued dialogue between the UN and the government on ways to foster renewable energy in the country, including through strategic policy incentives and access to international financing. The United Nations in Iran is fully committed to supporting Iran in a just and sustainable energy transition in the months to come.



The multi-stakeholder meeting to enhance the share of Renewable Energy in the national energy mix.
©UNRCO - 2024



2.6. Financial overview and resource mobilization

Total Expenditure Per Pillar (US\$):

PRIORITY Area 1	SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE	2.7 million
PRIORITY Area 2	PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT	12 million
PRIORITY Area 3	ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE	2.3 million
PRIORITY Area 4	DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT	3.8 million
PRIORITY Area 5	DRUG CONTROL	1 million
Total:		22 million
RRP Total	REFUGEE RESPONSE	52 million



Chapter

3

**UNCT
KEY FOCUS
FOR
NEXT YEAR**





For 2025, the United Nations will continue to focus on strategic, catalytic and prioritized interventions to support people in vulnerable situation in Iran, including female-headed households, people with disabilities, youth, poor refugees and host communities.



Last year's interventions show that some limited-scale interventions in pilot areas, for example, in areas of social-economic resilience, women empowerment or environment contributed to measurable impact these areas, for example an increase of women's employment or a reduction in water consumption while at the same time increasing the crop yields. If scaled up, these initiatives result in larger – potentially even countrywide – change.



Building upon existing efforts and demands, the United Nations in Iran will increase its technical support and knowledge sharing, notably in the areas of inclusive economic growth, environment, and disaster risk reduction. The United Nations will further explore opportunities to strengthen regional cooperation to address issues of common interest, including climate change, health, refugees and counter narcotics.



Despite the complex operating environment, progress has been made to advance operational efficiency to optimize effectiveness and efficiency of United Nations operations.



In the face of continuous financial resource challenges, the United Nations will continue to expand its innovative partnerships to work together for the benefit of the people of Iran.





List of Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
APDIM	Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management
CD4	Cluster of Differentiation 4
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP	Gross domestic product
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INSARAG	International Search and Rescue Advisory Group
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
MW	Megawatt
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
PHC	Primary health care
RI	Relief International
RRP	Refugee Response Plan
SDS	Sand and Dust Storms
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UBRAF	Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework
UI/UX	User interface design/User experience design
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team



UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNDS	United Nations Development System
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization



© Kaveh Seyedahmadian





Resident Coordinator's Office

UN Common Premises

No.8, Shahrzad Blvd., Darrous

1948773911 Tehran,

Islamic Republic of Iran. P.O.Box: 15875-4557

 iran.un.org

 [un_iran](https://www.instagram.com/un_iran)

© Cover Photo by Kaveh Seyedahmadian