The United Nations in the Islamic Republic of Iran

About UN Iran:

Iran joined the United Nations in 1945 as one of the original 50 founding members. The UN established its field presence in Iran in 1950 and today the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) is represented by 20 resident and 4 non-resident agencies, funds and specialized programmes. There are approximately 450 staff members in the UN system in Iran (90 per cent of whom are Iranian citizens), working in various offices across the country, though most are based in Tehran.

The various UN entities in Iran act according to their development and humanitarian mandates as agreed upon with the Government.

Humanitarian Response

The UNCT is at the forefront of providing humanitarian support to vulnerable populations including refugee communities in Iran.

The UN supports the Government of Iran in implementing inclusive refugee policies and facilitates coordinated protection approaches in support of the Afghan refugee situation.

COVID-19 Response

In 2020, to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Iran worked closely with the Government to tackle the most pressing needs and deliver emergency support to the most affected population.

A COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Programme (SERP) offer was developed by UN Iran in consultation with the Government with the aim to strengthen the national health system; promote employment opportunities and provide social protection.

Development Priorities

The UNCT continued to deliver on its 4 priority development areas:
Snapshot of results achieved in 2020

Key results achieved in 2020 by the UNCT in Iran with the great support of and in collaboration with national and international partners:

**Humanitarian Response**

In Iran, refugees have access to education, health and livelihoods opportunities. It is estimated that 96% of refugees in Iran live in cities, towns and villages, while 4% live in 20 settlements.

**UNHCR | WFP | IOM**

- **500,000** foreign students, including Afghan and Iraqi refugees, enrolled in national schools.
- **30,300** refugees in 20 settlements received cash and food assistance.
- **3,000** girl students provided with education incentives.

**COVID-19 Response**

Several activities were undertaken by the UNCT to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the socio-economic downturn.

**WHO | UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | UNDP | IOM | UNFPA | UNAIDS | UNODC | UN-Habitat**

- **6,549** refugee households and 32,000 individuals received cash assistance.
- **200** metric tons of PPE items and medical supplies procured.
- **+9 million** people benefited from the mental health essential services during the pandemic.

**Development Priorities**

**Health**


**UNDP | UNICEF | WHO | UNFPA | UNAIDS | UNESCO | FAO**

- **3 million** people in 63 cities and 63 villages benefitted from the implementation of Tobacco Free Initiative.
- **200,000** rapid HIV tests procured.
- **10** different cancer medicines for children procured internationally.

**Environment**

Challenges addressed: Water management, desertification, high CO2 emission levels, unsustainable farming and land management, shrinking wetlands and droughts.

**UNDP | FAO | UNIDO | WHO | UNESCO | UNEP | UNHABITAT**

- **17** wetland management plans approved and implemented.
- **191** villages around Urmia Lake adapted sustainable agriculture models and water management solutions.
- **13** energy efficiency solutions in 217 residential buildings and 33 governmental/public buildings mitigated 1,193 tons of CO2 emission.

**Resilient economy**

Challenges addressed: Natural disaster, food security and sustainable agriculture, sustainable employment, tourism and cultural heritage, urbanization.

**UNICEF | UNDP | UNFPA | UNIDO | UNESCO | UNHABITAT | FAO**

- **2,500** vulnerable groups & women headed households provided with opportunities at micro, small & medium enterprises.
- **16** new alternative livelihoods initiated across the country’s wetland areas.
- **700** jobs in IT and 1,500 in garment sectors created.

**Drug control**

Challenges addressed: Drug abuse prevention and treatment and drug supply reduction.

**UNODC | WHO | UNICEF**

- **1,147,167** kg of various drugs was seized in 2020.
- **120** telephone counselors trained to improve the social behaviour of at-risk populations.
- **1,200** families in pre-schools participated in the prevention of risky behaviors & addiction programme.

In 2020 UN Iran’s overall expenditure amounted to **US $129,836,237** for Humanitarian & COVID-19 response

In 2020 UN Iran’s overall expenditure amounted to **US $21,020,763** under UNDAF

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