



United Nations Development Programme

History of Agency in the World and Iran

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop capacity, they draw on UNDP's assistance and its wide range of partners. UNDP was founded in 1965 and its Headquarters is located in New York.

UNDP has had a representative office in Iran since 1966 and has worked closely with its major development partners – the Government, local councils, civil society, academic institutions, and the private sector – to promote sustainable human development in the country.

In each country office, the Resident Representative of UNDP normally also serves as the Resident Coordinator for the United Nations system as a whole. Through such coordination, UNDP seeks to ensure the most effective use of UN and international aid resources.

Priorities Globally and in Iran

World leaders have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015. UNDP's network links and coordinates global and national efforts to reach these Goals. UNDP's focus is to help countries build and share solutions to the challenges of democratic governance, poverty alleviation, crisis prevention and recovery, energy and environment, and HIV/AIDS.

The annual Human Development Report, commissioned by UNDP, focuses the global debate on key development issues, providing new measurement tools, innovative analysis and often controversial policy proposals. The global Report's analytical framework and inclusive approach carry over into regional, national and local Human Development Reports, also supported by UNDP.



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Main projects/activities in Iran

UNDP undertook a broad MDGs initiative in Iran to mainstream the goals in the country's national plans, localize successful community-based techniques, and institutionalize the MDGs reporting process to help the country achieve the goals. In partnership with UNDP, Iran launched its National MDG Reports (2004 and 2006) which highlight the country's achievements particularly in the areas of health and education as well as development challenges in achieving the goals.

UNDP has been working in partnership the Government of Iran to strengthen institutional capacities to implement an Automated System for Customs Data Administration (ASYCUDA) developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) which is currently being implemented in more than 80 countries around the world. The ASYCUDA World software has helped ease existing customs procedures while developing the technical capacity needed to further integrate the country with global trade.

UNDP piloted a poverty alleviation initiative in Sistan-Baluchistan, the poorest province in Iran. The lessons-learned from the results of this experience can be introduced into future community empowerment activities at the provincial level using the area-based development approach.

UNDP helps Iran address its environmental challenges and meet its commitments to international environmental conventions on combating desertification, protecting biodiversity, reducing greenhouse gases, managing Persistent Organic Pollutants, ensuring sustainable management of land and water resources and eliminating ozone depleting substances. UNDP is also helping Iran concentrate on energy efficiency, and mitigate the environmental consequences of development plans and programmes. The UNDP Global Environment Facility/Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP) works to conserve the global environment through local action and local participation.

UNDP is also working closely with the government on reducing the impact of natural disasters on economic and social development. It strives to strengthen national capacities for disaster risk management and coordination, and has actively contributed to the reconstruction programmes in the earthquake-affected areas in Bam and Lorestan.

Working in close partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), UNDP helps place HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria at the centre of national development dialogue in Iran and build partnerships among the Government, civil society and private sector to coordinate an effective response to these diseases, which represent development challenges in this country.