



**UNITED NATIONS in IRAN**  
We the peoples... A stronger UN for a better world



## The United Nations in the Islamic Republic of Iran

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

**International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

**Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**

**United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)**

**United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI)**

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

**United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)**

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

**United Nations Centre of Human Settlements (UN-HABITAT)**

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

**United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)**

**United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

**United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**

**United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**

**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**

**World Food Programme (WFP)**

**World Health Organization (WHO)**



## Overview of UN work in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Iran is a founder member of the United Nations (UN) and joined in 1945. Only 51 of the current 193 countries in the world can claim that honour. Today the Islamic Republic of Iran is an active partner in the work of the UN and its funds, programmes and specialized agencies.

For its own part, the UN has been active – on the ground – in Iran since 1949 when we opened our first small UNIC office. Our UNICEF office opened the following year. Soon afterwards, others followed.

Iran is a middle-income country which has witnessed a dramatic improvement in its human development index in the past three decades. It is now poised to achieve many of the Millennium Development Goals established during the 2000 Millennium Summit, in which Iran also participated. But much work is still required to improve human development in Iran.

**UN agencies:** Today there are 18 UN agencies, funds and programmes working on the ground in Iran. There are approximately 400 staff members (90 per cent of whom are local) work in duty stations in different parts of Iran. Most are based in Tehran.

**What we do:** As agreed with the government, the aim of most of our work is to support Iran's efforts in six priority areas spanning both development and humanitarian goals:

- Reduce poverty,
- Promote health,
- Protect the environment,
- Respond better to natural disasters,
- Address the problems of drug abuse and trafficking, and
- Support the protection of refugees.

The first five of these goals are implemented under what we call the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The UNDAF is based on – and aligned with – the national development priorities and strategies. It was designed in full consultation with and the active participation of, the government. It is a tool which allows the different UN agencies in the country to harmonize their capacities, projects and programmes, in order to best support the country's development efforts.

**How we do it:** The United Nations offices in Iran work in partnership with the government to respond to national development priorities and emerging needs of the country. We have agreed on programmes of cooperation with the government according to their development and humanitarian mandates. Some of these programmes are part-funded by the government itself. We work not only with the government, but also with partners in the non-governmental sector under the projects and programmes agreed with the government.