



# UN Development Programme (UNDP)

## Vision

UNDP is the UN's global development network. We advocate for change and for connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life for themselves. UNDP works on the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, helping them find their own solutions to national development challenges.

UNDP was formed in 1966 and its Headquarters is located in New York. UNDP has had a representative office in Iran since then and has, during all this time, worked closely with its major development partner – the government, and with many other partners and entities like civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector – to promote sustainable human development in the country.



The Zagros Mountain range passes through a large section of western Iran and is home to rich biodiversity whose conservation UNDP supports

World leaders have pledged to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – including the overarching commitment “to leave no one behind” – by 2030. UNDP's network coordinates and links global and national efforts to reach these SDGs.



Farmers are being trained to use participatory sustainable agricultural techniques which saves and rediverts water to Lake Urmia – joint initiative between UNDP & Iran supported by Japan.

Overall, its motto is ‘Empowered lives – Resilient Nations’.

The annual Human Development Report, published by UNDP, focuses the global debate on key development issues, providing new measurement tools, innovative analysis and policy proposals. The report's robust analytical framework and inclusive approach carry over into regional, national and sub-national Human Development Reports, many supported by UNDP.

## Work in Iran

Our work in Iran, like everywhere else, is guided by a Country Programme Document – developed and agreed in full partnership with the government – for the period covering 2012-2016. It focuses on four areas.

### **Inclusive Growth and Poverty**

**Reduction:** UNDP works to support the government to alleviate poverty through participatory approaches at the district and community levels, demonstrating community-empowerment techniques (specifically the “social mobilization and micro-credit” method). We link these to rangeland rehabilitation, skills improvement, micro – small enterprise



The Carbon Sequestration Project is a model for reversing desertification in Iran



A positive club funded by UNDP/Global Fund in Isfahan where women are empowered

establishment and participatory technology development.

**Health and development:** In close partnership with the Global Fund (GF) UNDP contributes to the national efforts to address communicable diseases and place them at the centre of national development dialogue in the Islamic Republic of Iran. As the Principle Recipient of GF grants, UNDP works with the government, civil society and private sector as well as other UN agencies to ensure that the country is able to derive full benefit from GF resources and that the resources are effectively used in full accord with the National Strategic Plans to address three diseases – AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

**Environment and Sustainable Development:** We partner with Iran in its response to environmental challenges which currently come in the form of spreading desertification, shrinking wetlands, loss of biodiversity, increased greenhouse gas emissions and water/air pollution. We support the sustainable management of land and water resources and the elimination of ozone depleting substances. We also work with Iran to concentrate on energy efficiency by adopting climate change mitigation measures.

UNDP implements the Global Environment Facility / Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP) which is a multi-focal area programme and works to conserve the global environment through local action and local participation.

**Disaster risk reduction and mitigation:** We work closely with the government to establish systems which reduce the impact of natural disasters on human development. Our work strengthens national capacities for disaster risk management and coordination.

**UNDP also promotes South-South Cooperation** in Iran in order to ensure that global best practices from the South are made available, and also that Iran's own skill and talent pool is placed at the disposal of other countries in the global South.

## Looking ahead

Our new five-year Country Programme Document for 2017 – 2021 is currently under preparation. It builds on the new UNDAF 2017 – 2021 jointly agreed to between Iran and the UN. The priority areas are: Environment, Health, Resilient Economy, and Drug Control.