

Country Programme 2012 – 2016



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

We believe in national ownership

We serve the people of Iran

We help build better lives

We are partners in development

Overview

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a middle income country with a population of over 75 million. Its gross domestic product (GDP) is of approximately \$350 billion, with an average annual growth rate of 3.5%. In 2011, Iran ranked 88th out of 187 countries with a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.707.

Over the years, Iran has made some remarkable progress in the delivery of basic services such as health, education and electricity to its people. The country is on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agreed by the international community in 2000, several of which it has already achieved. Progress has been most significant for MDGs 1, 2, 4 and 5.

Key Facts on Iran	
Population, 2011	75 million
Area	1,648,195 km ²
GDP, 2010	US\$ 350 billion
Human Development Index (HDI), 2011	0.707
HDI Rank, 2011	88th out of 187

UNDP's Country Programme in the I.R.Iran

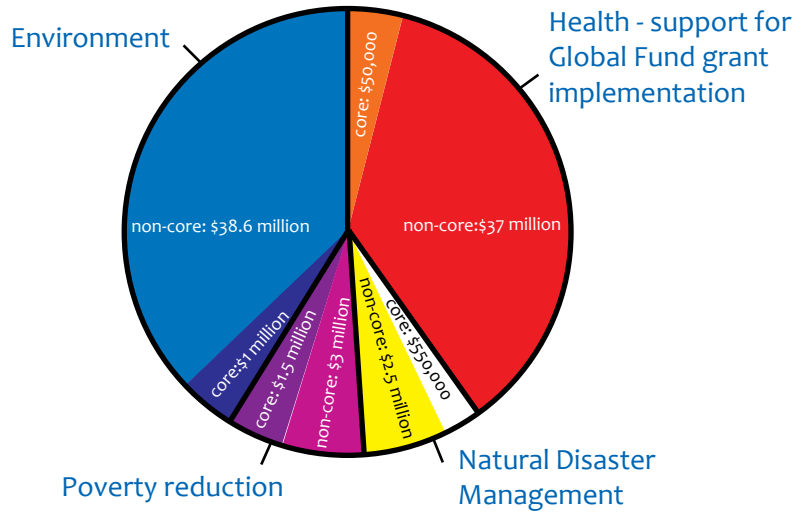
UNDP's 2012-2016 country programme was prepared in close consultation with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, drawing from the Fifth National Development Plan, the agreed outcome areas of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012-2016, and key priorities of the UNDP Strategic plan.

The country programme is organized around four main issue-areas: **poverty reduction, environmentally sustainable management, health in terms of support to Global Fund grant implementation and natural disaster management**. The cross-cutting issues of south-south cooperation and sharing of knowledge and expertise through science and technology transfer are included across all programme components.

As a middle income country, Iran is well placed to play a leading role in exchanging knowledge and technical expertise through South-South cooperation, both in the region and globally. UNDP will continue to support Iran in these endeavors, drawing on its vast global knowledge network and established best practices.

Financial Information

UNDP Country Programme budget 2012-2016 (Millions of US\$)	
Total	\$84.2
Core	\$3.1
Non-Core	\$81.1



Map of UNDP Projects in Iran



Poverty Reduction:

- To promote inclusive economic growth, prevent poverty and improve social and economic welfare for vulnerable or at-risk groups, UNDP will contribute to initiatives that will:
 1. Support the development of macro-planning models, monitoring & evaluation systems and coordination mechanisms to ensure job-rich growth patterns;
 2. Improve national and sub-national institutional capacity to formulate socio-economic and social protection models.
- UNDP will target most at-risk groups such as women, youth and those affected by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis or malaria in order to support progress towards Millennium Development Goals 3, 6 and 7 which all have a direct impact on poverty.
- Poverty reduction initiatives will be linked with environmental projects to reach out to the urban and rural poor through sustainable income generation initiatives
- To contribute to the achievement of a fully integrated, outcome-based national planning capacity, UNDP will promote the adoption of an inclusive growth planning and management framework and model for the national development planning system.

Key National Partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Strategic Planning and Control (SPAC). Ministry of Agriculture Jihad, Forest Rangeland & Watershed Organization (FRWO), Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, Ministry of Housing, Imam Khomeini Relief Committee (IKRC), Ministry of Industry/Trade (MIT), President's Deputy for Management and Human Resources (DMHRD), Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI).

Environmentally Sustainable Management:

UNDP will aim to improve national capacities for the integrated management, conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as for strengthen Iran's network of protected areas.

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation capacities will be targeted at both the national and sub-national levels to contribute to the adoption of a climate resilient development path, aligned with an inclusive economic growth model.

- UNDP will strengthen mechanisms for assessing and monitoring environmental impacts and trends, including those that focus on the relationship between environmental degradation and poverty.
- Support will be provided to Iran in accessing global funding mechanisms under the Multilateral Environment Agreements. By 2015, Iran is due to have reduced its consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons by 10% in accordance with targets set in the Montreal Protocol.

Key National Partners: Department of Environment, Forest Rangeland & Watershed Organization (FRWO), Iran Fuel Conservation Organization (IFCO), Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Oil.

Natural Disaster Management

- UNDP will provide continued support to the Government of Iran for the integration of disaster management and risk reduction into development policies, key sector plans and programmes.
- Understanding and knowledge of the risks associated to disasters will be promoted, as will community-based disaster management and risk reduction efforts.
- The country programme will support Iran to develop regional and international cooperation for the exchange of knowledge and expertise.

Key National Partners: National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO), Building Research Center of Ministry of Road and Urban Development (BHRC), Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), Strategic Planning and Control Division of the Vice-President's Office (SPAC), Tehran Disaster Mitigation and Management Organization (TDMO).

Health - Support for Global Fund Grant Implementation

- In close partnership with Iran's Country Coordinating Mechanism and as the Principal Recipient of Global Fund grants, UNDP will support the Government to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria through its national AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis strategies.

Key National Partners: Ministry of Health & Medical Education (MoHME), Ministry of Education, National TV & Radio Organization, Prisons Organization, Welfare Organization.

Results of Past Cooperation

UNDP Iran's 2012-2016 Country Programme builds on the successes of its previous programme of work, lessons learned and achievements made in partnership with the Government of Iran. Some highlights of past collaboration include leveraging capacity for strategic national planning, stalling the spread of disease, and developing models for poverty alleviation and environmental management:

Poverty Reduction

- Iran's Fifth National Development Plan specifically refers to the improvement of HDI as a key national development priority for the next five years.
- Micro-finance initiatives are increasingly being utilized in development planning. UNDP joint initiatives such as the Small Grants Programme, the Carbon Sequestration project have been used as models and replicated by government using national funds.

Environmentally Sustainable Management

- The 5th National Development Programme has adopted the environmental assessment of strategic level plans policies and plans as well as a countrywide "ecosystem-based approach" to the management of wetlands and biodiversity.
- Iran is an early achiever of the phase out milestones set by the Montreal protocol.
- The 2008 evaluation of the Conservation of the Asiatic Cheetah project confirmed that Iran has saved this iconic species from extinction and provided a platform for upgrading of protected areas in 7 out of 10 cheetah habitats.
- The Carbon Sequestration project near Birjand has provided a participatory rangeland rehabilitation model, creating alternative jobs for the rural poor while making important contributions to climate change mitigation.

Health – Controlling HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria

- The number of laboratory confirmed autochthonous malaria cases decreased from 11,923 in 2006 to 2,166 in 2010, a 60% drop. The number of malaria cases in Iran is at its lowest level in 30 years.
- The incidence rate of tuberculosis (TB) in 2007 decreased by 41.6% compared to its level in 1990. TB mortality rates decreased by 46.1% in 2007 compared to 1990.
- Iran has stabilized the HIV prevalence rate among intravenous drug users 14.3% of which are HIV+. HIV prevalence rates in prisons fell from 3.4% in 2002 to 1.4% in 2009.

- Advocacy and training activities have contributed to raise public awareness and reduce stigmatization on the issue of HIV/AIDS.
- Bio-Behavioral Surveillance surveys, initiated by the Global Fund HIV project, now figure prominently in the HIV National Strategic Plan and are run biennially.

Natural Disaster Management

- Two project pilots conducted in the cities of Kerman and Gorgan on safe schools neighborhoods and hospitals have been analyzed to be replicated nationally.
- Disaster risk management has been integrated nationwide across all government offices.
- Decision making support tools are now in place, including a National Information Portal and a National Disaster Database.

