United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP is the United Nations’ lead agency on sustainable human development. Having pioneered the concept more than 30 years ago and given its long-term presence and cooperation in the vast global development network, UNDP is uniquely positioned for connecting countries to knowledge, best-practices, and resources to achieve greener and sustainable development objectives. We are nimble, innovative, adaptable, and work with partners for solutions to national development challenges.

UNDP was formed in 1965 and is headquartered in New York. It is a field-driven organization counting on 166 offices around the world.

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

Work in Iran

UNDP has had a representative office in Iran since 1966 and works closely with its major development partners – the government, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector – to achieve the Global Goals set by world leaders, including the overarching commitment “to leave no one behind” by 2030.

UNDP recognizes the linkages between development issues such as natural resources management, poverty, and inequality. Sound analysis and integrated solutions are central to our work.

Our work in Iran, like everywhere else, is guided by a Country Programme Document, developed, and agreed upon in full partnership with the government, covering 2017-2021 (extended until 2022). It focuses on four areas:
Environmentally Sustainable Development:

UNDP supports integrated natural resources management and biodiversity initiatives. We work with the government to identify areas in which pilot initiatives can be developed and implemented – such as water resources management, waste management, pollution control and urban environmental challenges. We support government efforts to reduce the carbon footprint by providing access to knowledge products, technical expertise, and evidence regarding potential solutions, including ways to increase the efficiency of energy production and use.

Health and Development:

UNDP helps coordinate the United Nations response to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. We work in close collaboration with UNAIDS and WHO and support the government in utilizing Global Fund resources. Our primary focus and strengths include:

(a) supporting increased collaboration of public health and non-health sectors in the national non-communicable disease response
(b) encouraging investment in combating non-communicable diseases
(c) promoting and supporting the expansion and transition of Global Fund activities to non-communicable disease activities.

Resilient Economy – Social Welfare, Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Employment:

UNDP works with national counterparts to understand and address inequality and social protection issues and integrate related concepts in policymaking and planning processes within key institutions. We support government efforts to diversify the economy and create green job opportunities, with particular focus on innovative schemes and programmes. We work in deprived areas to create more opportunities such as small and medium enterprises and social enterprises focusing on vulnerable groups including Women Headed Households.

Resilient Economy – Natural Disaster Management:

UNDP supports the government’s efforts to improve preparedness and resilience in the event of natural disasters in the context of the Sendai Framework. We provide technical support and access to international best practices/expertise and facilitate arrangements that promote multi-stakeholder participation and cooperation, including enhanced synergy among relevant entities.

UNDP also promotes South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Iran to ensure that global best practices are made available in the country, thus reducing the time and cost of implementing initiatives and state-of-the-art solutions.

Simultaneously, Iran’s own skills and talent pool are placed at the disposal of other countries in the global South.