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 founded in 1965 and its Headquarters is located in New York. UNDP has had a representative office in Iran since 1966 and has, during all this time, 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.

World leaders have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – including the goal of cutting extreme poverty in half – by 2015. UNDP’s network coordinates and links global and national efforts to reach these MDGs. UNDP’s global focus is to help countries build and share solutions to the challenges of poverty reduction, democratic governance, environment and energy, and resilience in the face of natural or man-made disasters. 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 analytical framework and inclusive approach carry over into regional, national and sub-national Human Development Reports, many supported by UNDP.

As is the case in all countries the UNDP Resident Representative in Iran also serves as the Resident Coordinator for the entire United Nations system.

Work in Iran

Our work in Iran falls under a Country Programme Document – developed and agreed in full partnership with the government – for the period covering 2012-2016. It focuses on 4 areas.
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 establishment and participatory technology development.

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

Environment: We partner Iran in its response to environmental challenges which currently come in the form of water shortages, desertification, 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.

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. 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. GEF/SGP is another demonstration of a South-South Programme among 120 countries.