United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Vision

UNICEF is the world’s leading agency for children. It works in more than 190 countries to help children realize their rights to survival, development and protection. UNICEF was created by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1946 first as a temporary body. In 1953 the UNGA changed the mandate of UNICEF to a permanent UN body focusing on children and adolescents.

UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and strives to help establish children’s rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behavior towards children.

UNICEF is committed to ensuring special protection for the most disadvantaged children, victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty and all forms of discrimination, violence and exploitation.

Work in Iran

UNICEF has been working in Iran since the early 1950s. Initially, UNICEF and the government of Iran focused their collaboration on child survival, health and nutrition, and gradually expanded this to include education, child protection, HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment and child poverty reduction. Today, all of these sectors work closely together in the recognition that an integrated approach is a more efficient and effective way of achieving results.

UNICEF collaborates with a range of governmental authorities, civil society organizations, religious leaders, academia, and private-sector groups.

UNICEF coordinates with other United Nations organizations and development partners in the framework of the priorities set out by the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Crucially, UNICEF’s work is supported by contributions from governments and private donors, trusts and foundations from every corner of the globe.

Children are going to the beach in a village called Bahl in the southern Iranian port city of Jask.
Iran is selected as a leading country in global “All-In Initiative” for prevention of HIV/AIDS among children and adolescents.

Currently, UNICEF works in Iran under a country program. This is operationalized by an agreed five-year program of cooperation from 2012 to 2016. UNICEF’s current program focuses on the following areas:

1. Integrated Early Childhood Development aims to promote comprehensive early developmental care and education services at the early phase of the life cycle through promotion of breast-feeding, child growth monitoring, immunization, positive parenting, injury prevention and neonatal health care.

2. Advancing Nutrition for Children and Adolescents focuses on prevention of under and over nutrition as well as essential micronutrient deficiencies for optimal child health and development, expansion of healthy nutrition models and promotion of the sustainable nutrition and food security.

3. Combating HIV and AIDS contributes to fight against HIV and AIDS with and for adolescent through achieving a high level of effective and equitable coverage of HIV prevention intervention with the overall target of reducing risky behaviors.

4. Elimination of Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV supports the national efforts to institutionalize the EMTCT program and to accelerate the universal access to HIV testing and counselling for all pregnant women and integration of stigma and discrimination reduction in EMTCT interventions.

Newborn Individualized Developmental Care and Assessment Program (NIDCAP) initiative aims to enhance the quality of hospital care for premature newborns.

5. Drug Abuse Prevention Program aims to promote development and roll-out of drug prevention models targeting young people and adolescents based on global best practices.

6. Enhancing Quality of Education supports national efforts in promoting all-inclusive quality education in a safe educational environment where children are active participants.

7. Education in Emergencies aims to increase national capacity in reducing the damage to children caused by natural disasters and support immediate resumption of quality education for all students in a safe educational environment.

8. Promoting Healthy Lifestyle for Adolescents and Young People enhances healthy life style promotion program and services with the aim of prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs).

9. Poverty Reduction for Children promotes integrated social protection systems informed by a comprehensive understanding of all dimensions of child poverty and deprivation.