



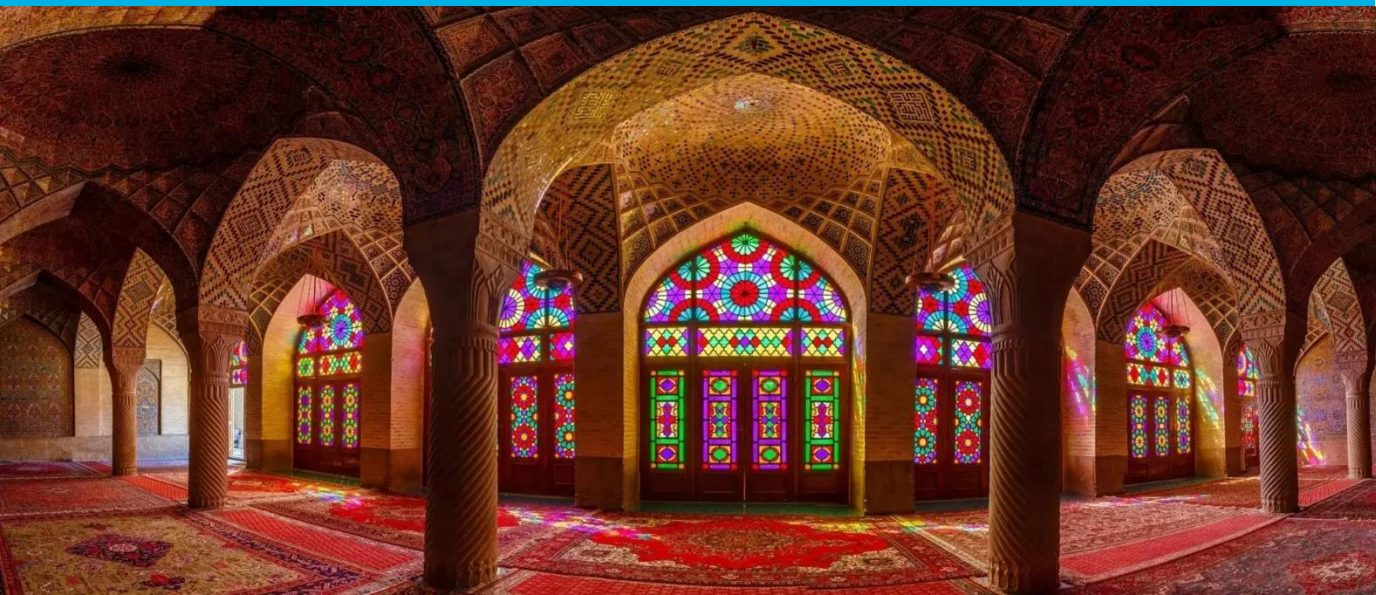
UN-HABITAT

UN-Habitat

Islamic Republic of Iran

Country Programme Overview

2023-2027



UN-Habitat Islamic Republic of Iran Country Programme Overview 2023-2027

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Country facts

National population

86,000,000

National urbanisation rate

75%

Largest urban area

Tehran

Annual urban growth rate

1.3 %



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Despite significant efforts in the country, overall progress towards achieving SDG 11 in I.R. Iran remains with significant challenges. I.R. Iran has made encouraging progress in reducing urban slum populations, implementing disaster risk reduction strategies, and access to improved and piped water sources. However, there is a gap between the targets and current baselines related to the environment, access to public transport and air quality.

UN-Habitat and I.R. Iran

UN-Habitat is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable cities and human settlements with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran (I.R. Iran) and UN-Habitat signed an agreement to establish the 'UN-Habitat Disaster Mitigation Office' in Tehran on 21 December 2006. The UN-Habitat Tehran Office was officially opened in 2009. This agreement was extended in two stages until June 2019.

According to the amended agreement, the activities of the office have been expanded from disaster mitigation to all activities addressing all focus and thematic areas including urban planning and design, social inclusion, risk reduction and rehabilitation, urban infrastructure, legislation and governance, urban research, urban economy, housing, and slum upgrading.

In 2019 at the Secretariat of the National Habitat Committee, an interim period of a maximum two years (from 31 July 2019 to 31 July 2021) was considered, as the transition period for a new agreement. In June 2022, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and UN-Habitat was signed during the 11th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF11) in Katowice, Poland, 26-30 June 2022.

UN-Habitat's national counterpart in I.R. Iran is the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (MoRUD). UN-Habitat works closely with the National Habitat Committee (NHC), established under the auspices of MoRUD. The UN-Habitat office in I.R. Iran is located within the Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center (BHRC).

National and international stakeholders and strategic partners in I.R. Iran include the MoRUD, the National Habitat Committee, ministries, municipalities, local organizations, academia, universities, ECO Secretariat, and UN agencies (including UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNEP, IOM, UNHCR).

Total value of resources mobilized by UN-Habitat in I.R. Iran (2014-2023)

US \$3,900,000

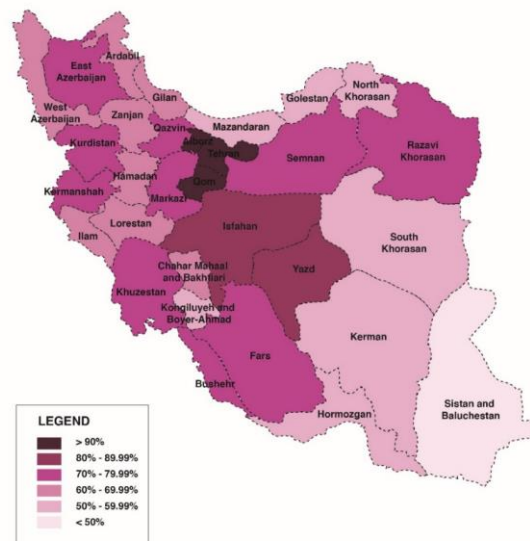
I.R. Iran's urban context and challenges

Urban population and trends

The population of I.R. Iran is approximately 86 million people. More than 75 per cent of the population in I. R. Iran is now living in urban areas (NUP 2022). I.R. Iran has gone through very rapid urbanization in the last few decades. The main reasons for this urban population growth include the natural growth of population in urban areas, the increased number of cities in Iran (from 201 cities in 1956 to 1245 cities in 2016), the integration of villages into cities, and rural-urban migration. Tehran, Qom and Alborz provinces have more than 90 per cent of their population living in urban areas and are the most urbanized provinces of I.R. Iran.

Accordingly, the largest and smallest share of the total population and urban population live in the provinces of Tehran and Ilam (14.7 per cent and 1 per cent of the total urban population), respectively. A distinguishing feature of I.R. Iran's urbanisation is the concentration of the urban population within large centres I.R. Iran's highest urban growth population occurred in Tehran and other metropolitan cities of the country.

35 per cent of I.R. Iran's urban population lives in eight metropolitan cities. This has resulted in polarized growth and uneven population distribution across the country. The figure to the right presents the population growth of eight metropolises of Iran in six decades. It highlights the difference between the capital city of Tehran with other metropolises and consequently, the primacy of Tehran.



Among the provinces of I.R. Iran, the highest population density belongs to the province of Tehran with 969 people per square kilometer, followed by Alborz and Gilan with 529 and 180 people per square kilometer, respectively.

Informal settlements

More than 20 million people in the country have been estimated to live in the area required for regeneration and intervention. This includes more than 6 million households and covers more than 166,000 hectares of urban area in

the country. More than 48 per cent of the identified buildings have been identified as physically unstable structures.

The urban fabrics which have been assessed as vulnerable and requiring regeneration efforts have been classified as the following:

- Dilapidated urban fabrics
- Informal settlements
- Historical fabrics.

Natural disasters

The country is prone to a diverse range of natural disasters including earthquakes, floods, land subsidence, sand and dust storms and drought. More than 12 earthquakes with more than 1000 human deaths in each event have been recorded in the country in the last 60 years. In 2021, 41,000 people have been displaced inside the country due to natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and sand and dust storms.

Climate change

The consequences of climate change in I.R. Iran are rapidly becoming clearer and more visible. Increases in temperature, water scarcity, drying wetlands and rivers, drought and floods, deforestation, desertification, sand and dust storms, agricultural destruction and food insecurity, climatic immigration, are now observed in different regions of the country which has directly affected life conditions in human settlements.

Urban environment

Due to regional and local sources, most parts of the country are affected by sand and dust storms. The event directly affects community health, daily life, industry activities and electricity transfer systems.

as Air pollution and emissions are a direct consequence of heavy traffic in urban areas and is raising major challenges in daily urban life.

The management of municipal solid waste is an increasing challenge in human settlements in I.R.Iran. While per capita waste production is about 250 to 300 grams per capita per day globally, this figure is 600 grams in Iran and 1,200 grams in Tehran.

UN-Habitat strategic objectives and partnerships and I.R. Iran

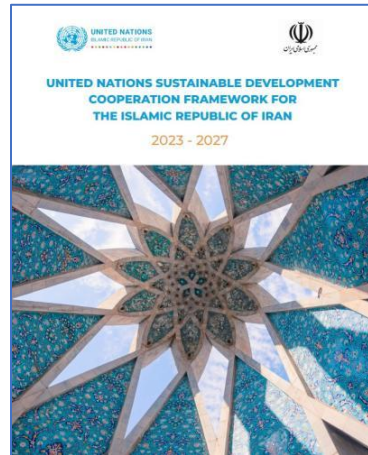
UN-Habitat in I.R. Iran has defined a framework of activities in cooperation with the Government of I.R. Iran. To this end, both parties will cooperate in activities aimed to:

1. Widen and strengthen cooperation in activities for the enhancement of human settlements conditions under the scope of the UN-Habitat program, within the Corresponding UNSDCF 2023-2027 outcomes in the fields of:
 - Disaster risk reduction and management.
 - Socio-economic resilience in human settlements, urban and regional planning including, upgrading informal settlements, land and housing and public spaces, road safety and connectivity of urban and rural areas, new towns and smart cities.
 - Environmental conservation integrated natural resource management and addressing climate change challenges.
2. Increase possibilities for Member States to build capacity in outcomes through joint regional and international activities.
3. Promote participation of Iranian experts in UN-Habitat activities by sharing experiences of I.R. Iran with countries in the region and around the world.
4. Promote UN-Habitat activities in I.R. Iran by developing collaboration beyond the mentioned outcomes.

UN-Habitat I.R. Iran's strategic alignment

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2023-27) in I.R. Iran

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2023-2027 was developed jointly between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations system to reflect and support national development goals and strategies. Starting in 2021, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in I.R. Iran engaged in consultations internally and with a wide range of national partners that identified the evidence base to prioritise development needs and opportunities for the UNSDCF.



These consultations resulted in the vision for United Nations support of I.R. Iran's development that is based on equitable, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth and development. Five strategic priorities that guide the work of the United Nations system in I.R. Iran in the coming years were identified as:

- Socio-economic resilience
- Public health
- Environment
- Disaster risk reduction and management
- Impacts of drug use and drug trafficking.

UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025

The UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025 positions UN-Habitat as a major global entity, a centre of excellence and innovation.

In this respect, UN-Habitat is refocusing itself as the thought leader and go-to agency that sets the global discourse and agenda on sustainable urban development.



UN-Habitat's framework in I.R. Iran

In accordance with the National Development Plan of I.R. Iran, the current UNSDCF document and UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan, UN-Habitat offers continued support to the Government of I.R. Iran's efforts in relation to developing sustainable cities, improving access to housing and services for vulnerable groups and improving the urban environment as focus areas

UN-Habitat's programme establishes a platform for strategic and fruitful cooperation between the Government of I.R. Iran and UN-Habitat.

Based on the Priority Areas established in the UNSDCF 2023-2027, UN-Habitat's Country Programme delivers activities in the following main Priority Areas:

Priority Area: Inclusive settlements

Priority Area: Environment and climate change

Priority Area: Disaster risk reduction and management

Priority Area: Prosperous cities

Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban – rural continuum

Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions

Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment

Effective urban crisis prevention and response

Social inclusion issues: (1) Human rights; (2) Gender; (3) Children, Youth and Older persons; (4) Disability

Crosscutting thematic areas: (1) Resilience; (2) Safety

Priority Area

Inclusive Settlements

Partners

National and local government agencies, UN Agencies, academia

Estimated budget

\$3 million

Proposed timeframe

2 to 3 years

Location

Cities and provinces across I.R. Iran

Target partners

Local and national government, academia and local entities, local communities

Key SDGs alignment

SDGs 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13

Addressing issues within marginalized communities will be considered by UN-Habitat through urban regeneration, implementation of the National Urban Policy, slum upgrading, planned city expansions, and planned city infills with spatial strategies and city profiling.

Regarding the regeneration of urban fabrics, in collaboration with relative entities, urban resilience will be improved including individual housing and urban basic services in informal settlements and provision of plans for affordable housing.

In addition, UN-Habitat technical support in this area will focus on the provision of knowledge and experience in urban planning, empowerment of local communities, inclusive access to urban basic services and public spaces, promoting road safety while addressing negative externalities such as pollution and congestion, promoting competitiveness and innovation in cities, and in turn, maximizing productivity gains.

Capacity development at institutional levels as well as the community level will take place.

Key proposed outcomes

- Implementation of National Urban Policy.
- Support for regeneration of informal settlements and dilapidated urban areas in partner cities and neighborhoods through improvement of resilience and management challenges.
- Support for safe road systems.
- Improvement of community livelihoods and revenues.
- Development of new plans using innovative approaches and technologies in neighborhoods in the context of people centered smart cities.

Priority Area

Environment and Climate Change

Partners

National and local government agencies, UN Agencies, academia

Estimated budget

\$3 million

Proposed timeframe

2 to 3 years

Location

Cities and provinces across I.R. Iran

Target partners

Local and national government, academia and local entities, local communities

Key SDGs alignment

SDGs 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13

Support and cooperation will be provided for the creation of policy frameworks that minimise the negative environmental impact of cities and human settlements. This support will protect the natural heritage of cities, support vulnerable population groups such as women, children, the elderly, or people with disabilities, mainstream the circular economy, improve air quality and municipal waste management, mitigate and adapt to climate change, improve resilience to disasters, and develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

UN-Habitat will act as a catalyst for connections and action in the global climate arena, linking global actors and policies to local and national contexts in I.R. Iran. It will build that linkage through a strategically designed process which combines policy advice, technical support, advocacy, thematic expertise, knowledge production and sharing of international best practices. UN-Habitat's programme on climate action in I.R. Iran will create a platform to facilitate local and global linkages.

Key proposed outcomes

- Institutional capacity development and legislation in the field of urban environment.
- Management of energy consumption and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in urban areas in candidate cities.
- Adaptation of communities and infrastructure to the effects of climate change.

Priority Area

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

Partners

National and local government agencies, UN agencies, academia

Estimated budget

\$3 million

Proposed timeframe

3 to 4 years

Location

Cities and provinces across I.R. Iran

Target partners

Local and national government, academia and local entities, local communities

Key SDGs alignment

SDGs 11, 13

Aimed at building safer cities, UN-Habitat will offer continued support to the Government of I.R. Iran's efforts in disaster risk reduction.

The cooperation will include the objectives of the Sendai Framework– understanding disaster risk – and effective disaster and emergency preparedness and response.

Cooperation will be provided to disaster risk reduction and management of different urban and rural sectors including urban infrastructure such as hospitals, schools and urban basic services against natural hazards. Approaches to improving the resilience of communities as well as physical assets will also be addressed.

A comprehensive multi-hazard and multi-level risk management approach will be implemented. This will include tools and knowledge on exploring vulnerability and risk.

Key proposed outcomes

Particular attention will be given to supporting efforts in:

- Legislating and developing capacity and preparedness both institutionally and at the community level.
- Enhancing social integration and developing inclusive communities.
- Identifying existing risks through a multi-hazard approach in project areas.
- Support for enhancing resilience of the built environment and infrastructure based on the identified vulnerability and risk.

Priority Area

Prosperous Cities

Partners

National and local government agencies, UN Agencies, academia

Estimated budget

\$2 million

Proposed timeframe

2 to 3 years

Location

Cities and provinces across I.R. Iran

Target partners

Local and national government, academia and local entities, local communities

Key SDGs alignment

SDGs 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13

To build prosperity within cities, UN-Habitat in I.R. Iran focuses on planning and policies for the poor, building effective governance and legal frameworks, and the improvement of institutions and the capacity of local authorities. This will be implemented under three prioritized policies of the National Urban Policy:

Policy #5: Revision of housing planning system for a balanced housing market that leads to affordable and adequate housing for all.

Policy #9: Preventing the expansion of informal settlements and upgrading the quality of life in vulnerable urban areas.

Policy #10: Defining the metropolitan areas concept in I.R. Iran's urban planning and governance system.

UN-Habitat will also provide its tools for the measurement of urban data for evaluation of the progress of activities in cities.

This enables city authorities, as well as local and national stakeholders, to identify opportunities and potential areas of intervention for their cities to become more prosperous. City finance and municipal revenue generation approaches as well as land value-based planning will be provided.

UN-Habitat will also provide expertise and knowledge on expanding access to adequate housing, urban basic services, livelihoods, education and public space, with safety and security as key factors to ensure the achievement of truly equal and inclusive, prosperous cities and human settlements.

Key proposed outcomes

- Provide legal, regulatory and/or guideline support on metropolitan governance, in particular for the Tehran metropolitan region.
- Provide technical support and tools for city prosperity and corresponding databases.
- Support for planning affordable housing.
- Build institutional capacity for partners and stakeholders.

Programme implementation

UN-Habitat in I.R. Iran implementation plan

For responsibilities in Paragraph III of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), UN-Habitat in I.R. Iran, in collaboration with stakeholders and UN Agencies will:

1. Develop projects and Terms of Reference for implementing the activities under Item 2 of the Lol together with UN agencies and key stakeholders in I.R. Iran (including Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (MRUD), National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO), Ministry of Energy (MOE) and Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT) (2023-2027).
2. Work towards Advocacy and Capacity Building for the Outcomes in collaboration with key stakeholders and partners in I.R. Iran (2023-2027).
3. Establish donor supported projects in the country in collaboration with different stakeholders in the country focusing on the subjects under each priority area defined in this programme.
4. Prepare for showcase of outputs of I.R. Iran collaboration with UN-Habitat in the 12th and 13th World Urban Forums, World Habitat Day (WHD), World Cities Day (WCD) by identifying and presenting cities in I.R. Iran successful in achievement of objectives in each Outcome and best practices (2024-2027).
5. Facilitate MoUs, Agreements of Cooperation (AoCs), and contracts with Iranian national ministries, institutions, municipalities, and other entities with the assistance of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (2022-2027).

UN-Habitat office operations

The UN-Habitat office in I.R. Iran is operated through the financial contributions of the Government of I.R. Iran. Contributions are allocated to UN-Habitat in I.R. Iran based upon different areas of priority agreed upon in the Country Programme.

These contributions are to be considered as seed funding only. UN-Habitat will mobilize additional resources for technical cooperation activities based on the areas of collaboration identified by both parties.

Both parties have agreed that UN-Habitat in I.R. Iran will work under the direction of an international professional and Iranian national experts. This is composed of a head of office, two experts and one administration officer, stationed in Tehran.

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