



**Country/Region/Global: Islamic Republic of Iran  
Initiation Plan**

**Project Title:** To formulate an area-based development approach and a multi-stakeholder programme of work towards sustainable rural development in Iran

**Expected UNDAF/CP Outcome(s):** UNDAF 2017-2021 Outcome 3.1: Inclusive growth, poverty eradication and social welfare

**Expected CPD Output(s):** CPD 2017-2021 OUTCOME 3: Relevant government agencies formulate, implement and monitor their social welfare, poverty eradication and sustainable employment policies and programmes more effectively (UNDAF Outcomes 3.1 and 3.5)

**Initiation Plan Start/End Dates:** 29 July 2019/ 15 Dec 2019

**Implementing Partner:** UNDP (DIM)

**Brief Description**

Iran has experienced a sharp decline in its rural population where the proportion of people living in rural areas decreased from 70% to less than 30% over past four decades. The main driver of this deteriorating trend has been inconsistent and unsustainable rural development. This issue is one of the key development priorities of Iran and there is a strong legal framework in support of rural development such as 6th Five-year National Development Plan. The government of Iran has also developed a rural development strategy adopted in 2017 however the strategy is not result oriented and there is a gap of an integrated sustainable rural development model.

The proposed initiative will establish a platform through which different actors will be able to participate in a consultation process to formulate a multi-stakeholder programme of work which will address Iran's rural development issues and challenges using international best practices as well as lessons learned from local practices. Sustainable rural development cuts across a number of development challenges such as poverty eradication, climate change adaptation and women economic empowerment. Moreover, there is a great potential for partnership building with different actors such as different national and local government entities, CBOs/NGOs, academia, private sector as well as UN agencies.

Programme Period:	_____
Atlas Project Number:	00121057
Atlas Output ID:	00116976
Gender Marker:	1

Total resources required	_____
Total allocated resources:	_____
• Regular	USD 80,000
• Other:	_____
Unfunded budget:	_____
In-kind Contributions	_____

Agreed by UNDP: \_\_\_\_\_

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## I. PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

Iran has experienced a sharp decline in its rural population where the proportion of people living in rural areas decreased from 70% to less than 30% over past four decades. The main driver of this deteriorating trend has been inappropriate and unsustainable rural development. This issue is one of the key development priorities of Iran and there is a strong legal framework in support of rural development such as 6th Five-year National Development Plan. The government of Iran has also developed a rural development strategy adopted in 2015 however the strategy is not result oriented and there is a gap of an integrated sustainable rural development model.

Rural development is necessary not only for an over-whelming majority of the population living in villages, but the development of rural activities is essential to accelerate the pace of overall economic development of the country. Rural development has assumed greater importance in Iran today as country is facing a lot of problems in the past few years including economic (failure to achieve balanced economic growth), Social (increasing marginalization) and environmental (resource degradation) issues which make the country to try more to achieve enhanced rural production and productivity, greater socio-economic equity, and balance in development of the country. It is the most significant challenges which must be considered in rural development planning.

Major challenges of rural development which have been listed in governmental documents are including but not limited to below items:

- Planning
  - Lack of integrated rural development plan based on features of the region.
  - Lack of regional approach in country planning system.
  - Lack of spatial and land use planning
- Institutional
  - Conflict in laws and regulations and weaknesses in the implementation of them
  - Weakness in having an integrated structure in making policies, planning in national and regional sections leading to parallel actions
  - Lack of bottom-up participatory approach.
- Economic
  - Lack of effective incentives for attracting investment (such as zero percent tax, cheap facilities, reduced share of employer's insurance, regulatory concession)
  - Lack of modern technologies and knowledge economy on the production and services of rural areas as well as the untrained labor force.
  - Lack of complete supply chain (from raw material to market supply and marketing
  - Weak or poor link between rural, national and global market due to weakness of transportation infrastructure
  - Non-expansion of banking and financial services and credit funds in rural areas.
- Social and cultural
  - Decreased population growth rate and increasing immigration rate
  - Decreased workforce skills
- Environmental
  - Unequal and unbalanced distribution of population and recourses
  - Environmental degradation due to inappropriate exploitation of the rural resources

- Incorrect changes in land use in rural areas
- Lack of systematic approach concerning environmental issues along with social and economic ones.
- Recused water resources
- Lack of basic infrastructure and services needed in rural region

The proposed initiative will establish a coordination and integration platform which will bring together all key stakeholders. During the implementation of this initiative the platform will increase the synergy between all stakeholders which will turn into a great institutional mechanism which will support smooth implementation of the next stage. The proposed initiative will establish a platform through which different actors will be able to participate in a consultation process to formulate a multi-stakeholder programme of work which will address Iran's rural development issues and challenges using international best practices as well as lessons learned from local practices. Sustainable rural development cuts cross a number of development challenges such as poverty eradication, climate change adaptation and women economic empowerment. Moreover, there is a great potential for partnership building with different actors such as different national and local government entities, CBOs/NGOs, academia, private sector as well as UN agencies.

The main purpose of the initiation plan is " to formulate an area-based development approach and a multi-stakeholder programme of work towards sustainable rural development in Iran" and the following interventions support the Government of Iran in their efforts to develop an agreed project document among key partners to practice an area-based development approach in pilot areas. The main output of the initiation plan will be as followed:

#### Output 1

An area-based development approach will be formulated aiming at sustainable rural development

#### Output 2

A project document (multi-stakeholder programme of work) will be developed for implementation of a full project

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## II. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

This Initiation Plan Project will be implemented under a Direct Implementation Modality (DIM). The intervention will be managed by the Resident Representative of UNDP in coordination with Deputy Vice President of rural development and deprived areas. Funding for all outputs will be directly managed by UNDP under Direct Implementation modality (DIM).

Quality assurance and monitoring of the outputs will be the responsibility of UNDP led by the UNDP Resident Representative and his/her designated staff, with support from a designated Programme Analyst.

UNDP will collaborate and coordinate with the Deputy Vice President of rural development and deprived areas and other related sectoral Ministries such as the Ministry of Cooperative, Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture Jihad at the national level and provincial/local authorities to design and implement the activities mentioned in this document.

### III. MONITORING

The following monitoring mechanisms will be in place for this Initiation Plan implementation:

- UNDP will conduct field visits to monitor the activities in the selected agreed provinces and produce field visit reports.
- UNDP will convene quarterly meetings with Deputy Vice President of rural development and deprived areas and other relevant national entities to present the progress made and share the priorities for the next period.
- An Initiation Phase Report will be prepared at the end of the Initiation Plan using the standard format available in the Executive Snapshot.

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the initiation phase will be monitored through the following monitoring plan:

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint) and Cost (if any)
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the workplan below will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the initiation phase in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly, or in the frequency required for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.	
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.	
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	Bi-annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.	
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	According with the pace of activities / continuously	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed internally and used to make course corrections.	
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Project Director and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved	At the end of project implementation		

	against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk log with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.			
<b>Project Review</b>	The project's governance mechanism will hold one project review to assess the performance of the initiation plan.	At least once in the project life cycle.	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed among the project governance and management mechanism and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.	

In accordance with UNDP Iran's programming policies and procedures, a Project Annual Planning and Reporting Package (PAPRP) shall be prepared and submitted to UNDP at the beginning of the year. The packages will be internally reviewed and potentially adapted halfway through the year to inform UNDP. A PAPRP includes a) an Annual Workplan (AWP), b) an Annual procurement plan, c) a Monitoring Calendar and d) a Risk Log.

Where UNDP transfers responsibility for managing resources to third parties, governments or NGOs, UNDP must receive assurance as to whether the resources are being properly used.

The Annual Project Progress Report (APPR) will follow the standardized form shared with the project by UNDP. The APPR should be certified by the National Project Director.

IV. WORK PLAN

Period:

Outputs (as per Project document)	Output Indicators and Annual Targets	Planned Activities: List all activities to be undertaken	Timetable				Responsible Party	Fund code	Donor	Budget Description/line	UNDP TRAC (US\$)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4					
Output 1: An area-based development approach will be formulated aiming at sustainable rural development	<p>Output indicator: Indicators: Agreed approach to be piloted</p> <p>Baseline: No agreed approach between key players in-place</p> <p>Targets: One area-based development approach formulated to be piloted by end 2019</p>	1.1 Review and document existing and previous national and international rural development practices		*	*	UNDP	4000	12	Contractual Services- Companies (72100) - 8000 Local Consultants (71300)- 2000	10,000	
		1.2 Consultation workshops with Key partners to discuss existing areas-based approaches and models and formulate an agreed approach to be piloted			*	*	UNDP	4000	12	Contractual Services - Companies (72100)- 34000 Local Consultants (71300)-7000 Travel (71600)-1000	42,000
		1.3. Review and select pilot sites in coordination with key partners			*	*	UNDP	4000	12	Contractual Services - Companies (72100)- 500 Travel (71600)-500	1,000
<b>Total output 1</b>											<b>53,000</b>
Output 2: A project document (multi-stakeholder programme of work) will be developed for	<p>Output indicator: Indicator: No. of project documents</p> <p>Baseline:</p>	2.1 Reviewing and effective linkages of all related national laws and regulation to the project document		*	*	UNDP	4000	12	Local Consultants (71300)-500 Travel (71600)-500	1,000	

implementation of a full project	0 Target: One Project document (multi-stakeholder programme of work)	2.2 Joint field visits with key partners to selected pilot sites	*	*	UNDP	4000	12	Contractual Services – Companies (72100)-3000 Local Consultants (71300)-1000 Travel (71600)-1000	5,000
		2.3 Preparing the draft project document through a participatory approach and sharing it with key partners for their final review and feedbacks	*	*	UNDP	4000	12	Contractual Services-Companies (72100)-14100 Travel (71600)-1000	15,100
		2.4 finalizing and submitting project document along with analysis for resource mobilization at national and international level	*	*	UNDP	4000	12	Contractual Services – Companies (72100)-1400	1,400
		Direct Project Cost	*	*	UNDP	4000	12	64397 - 3150.00; 74596 - 1350.00	4500
						<b>Total output 2</b>		<b>27,000</b>	
						<b>Total</b>		<b>80,000</b>	

