

**United Nations Development Programme****Country/Region/Global: I.R. IRAN****Initiation Plan****Project Title:**

Strengthening the Resilience of Vulnerable Local Communities against Water Shortage through Provision of Desalination System and Effective Use of Water in Agriculture in Chabahar Area **Expected UNDAF/CP**

**Outcome(s):** 1.2**Expected CPD Output(s):** 1.3**Initiation Plan Start/End Dates:** 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – 30 January 2023**Implementing Partner:** UNDP**Brief Description**

The Islamic Republic of Iran has an area of 1,648,195 square kilometres and a population of around 85 million. The country's territory is composed of arid and semi-arid lands. The whole country has been negatively impacted by the climate change during the past decades. Poor and unsustainable management of water resources have further exacerbated the situation. The country is also prone to natural disasters. Droughts are most common. Scarcity of water resources impose enormous economic, social, and environmental costs on communities living in drought affected areas. At the same time, Iran's population has grown rapidly in the past few decades, and an ongoing water crisis has made it hard to meet the growing demand for drinking water and irrigation. Additionally, the agricultural sector in Iran is one of the most important economic sectors of the country, and water is the key limiting factor of production. More than 90 percent of the water in the country is used for agriculture. However, it is still insufficient to meet the needs of the sector. Plus, with 33 to 37% water-efficiency levels, considerable volumes of water resources are lost in agriculture sector.

This situation also has a major impact on the most fragile ecosystems including in Sistan and Baluchestan as the second largest province in Iran province which is heavily dependent on agriculture with limited options and means to develop alternative livelihoods. At the same time, opportunities exist in some counties like Chabahar which can significantly reverse the socio-economic declines. This can be achieved through tapping the existing potential and comparative advantages of the area through the development of renewable energies, introduction of innovative water-efficient and climate-smart agricultural practice and technology as well as promotion of sustainable livelihoods.


The aforementioned challenges demonstrate a pressing need to provide sustainable and clean water and energy solutions, including through promoting water efficient agricultural management practices for sustainable livelihoods in target communities. Configuration of solar water treatment units significantly reduce both the cost and GHGs emission of the water purification process, making it the most cost-efficient water treatment system powered by green energy. Additionally, water-efficient irrigation technology and management will increase the efficiency of water usage in agriculture (currently ranges between 33-37%).

This initiative aims to conduct a realistic situation analysis and needs assessment through a participatory approach consulting with key stakeholders and local communities to frame a full-Size UNDP Project Document based on global standard. This project document will be developed by UNDP in close collaboration with Ministry of Interior to address the water stress in Chabahar area.

Programme Period:	3 months
Atlas Project Number:	00146138
Atlas Output ID:	00133343
Gender Marker:	1

Total resources required	30,500.00 USD
Total allocated resources:	30,500.00 USD
• Regular	30,500.00 USD
• Other:	
○ Donor	30,500.00 USD
○ Government MOI	0.00 USD
Unfunded budget:	_____
In-kind Contributions	0

Agreed by UNDP: Claudio Providas

DocuSigned by:  
  
 30-Oct-2022

## I. PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

This initiative aims to develop a full-Size UNDP **Project Document** based on the relevant templates to provide sustainable and clean water and energy solutions, including through promoting water efficient agricultural management practices for sustainable livelihoods in target communities. The **Project Document** will include the intended results to improve the access to drinking water supply and sanitation, as well as for agriculture sector represent the most essential priorities for development of Chabahr county. According to the Concept Note of this project, improved access to clean water and sustainable agriculture can reverse current migration trends in the province and can facilitate creation of employment and self-employment opportunities. Given the complexity of challenges, a combination of knowledge transfer, new technology and innovations will be vital. The provincial government is willing to increase access to clean water and strengthen agriculture sector and apply water efficient technologies in the area. While some efforts have been put in place, they have not been sufficient due to weak coordination and management mechanisms as well as inconsistent policy implementation in the water, agriculture, urbanization, and industrialization sectors.

The proposed solutions in developed **Project Document** will address the need to reduce-optimize water consumption in anticipation of further drought and the need to prioritize water to maintain water and food security through self-sufficiency.

To tackle the above development challenge, the **Project Document** will provide following solutions:

- a) Drinking water: One of the solutions to cope with water scarcity and provision of safe water for drinking and sanitation is using desalinization schemes. In response to the problem of water supply, the government is increasing the number and capacity of desalinization plants along the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea to mainly supply industrial sector. This can provide safe water for drinking and sanitation purposes. However, conventional water desalinization systems are based on energy intensive solutions e.g. use of natural gas. The project offers innovative and sustainable solutions and schemes using renewable energy sources (solar in specific) for water treatment systems. This will reduce the pressure on natural resources including fossil fuels and will mitigate emission of Green House Gases (GHGs) for Iran that is among the top 10 emitters in the world.
- b) Water for agriculture: The second solution is application of more water-efficient irrigation systems along with other sustainable agriculture practices to reduce water stress and improve the resilience of agriculture dependent communities. More efficient irrigation systems and other climate-smart agriculture practices will also increase crop yields and productivity that can enable development of livelihoods.

The above solutions will also contribute to improving livelihoods of target communities and their resilience.

The expected output is development of a full-fledged **Project Document** using relevant templates, with participation of UNDP and other stakeholders addressing the needs, and requirements of the mitigating water scarcity in Chabahar area by providing required technologies, technical advices and raising awareness. This project document will be prepared by UNDP in consultation with Ministry of Interior and through participatory approach in presence of all relevant stakeholders (national and provincial experts). The government has expressed its interest to fully support implementation of current initiation plan also contributing to implementation of a full-fledged project.

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## II. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The initiation plan will be implemented directly by UNDP (Direct Implementation Modality-DIM) in close collaboration with the Government of Iran, coordinated through Ministry of Interior. Government counterparts include Sistan and Balouchestan Governorship, Ministry of Jihad Agriculture and other national and provincial authorities.

The Ministry of Interior will serve as the main government partner which provides required information, administrative and technical support and coordination with other key partners such as Sistan and Balouchestan Governorship, Ministry of Jihad Agriculture and other national and provincial authorities.

UNDP will selected and appoint a National Project Coordinator as the focal point for this preparation phase. The National Project Coordinator will be responsible to make required coordination within the government to ensure that the project progress is participatory, based on a wide range of project stakeholders /beneficiary and inclusive. The project coordinator contributes to the definition of the project baseline (I.e. current policies, strategies, current capacities and activities, baseline M&E indicators) and contribute to the synthesis of relevant baseline information, including identification of gaps in baseline data and information and suggestions for further required studies; Verify and validate the technical, institutional, operational and financial scope and strategy of the project document. National consultant will also contribute to Quality Assurance and assessing Risks. She/he will report to the UNDP Programme office.

In addition to National Project Coordinator, an international consultant will be hired to take the responsibility of drafting final Full-Size UNDP's Project Document as per UNDP standard forma including Development Challenge, Strategy, Results and Partnerships, Project Management, Results Framework, Monitoring & Evaluation, Multi-year Work Plan, Governance & Management Arrangements, Legal Context, Risk Management, Project Quality Assurance Report, and Social and Environmental Screening through active participation of the relevant government departments and other key stakeholders. She/he will report to the National Project coordinator.

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## III. MONITORING

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring plans:

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint)	Cost (if any)
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs. Progress against the CPD and SP of UNDP should be recorded.	Every 1.5 month	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.	MOI	n/a

<b>Monitor and Manage Risk</b>	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log.	Every 1.5 month	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.	MOI	n/a
<b>Project Report</b>	A progress report will be presented to the MOI and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved	At the end of project		MOI	n/a

**IV. WORK PLAN**Period<sup>1</sup>:

EXPECTED OUTPUTS <i>And baseline, indicators including annual targets</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME (Month)				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		1	2	3	4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (USD)
<b>Output 1</b> <i>Final full-size UNDP Project Document is developed for Strengthening the Resilience of Vulnerable Local Communities against Water Shortage</i>  Baseline: 0 <i>Indicators: having a UNDP ProDoc in place</i>	<b>1.1 Activity</b>  <i>Climate Change and water Scarcity vulnerability assessment and gap analysis of small-scale agriculture</i>	1,500			-	UNDP in close cooperation with Ministry of interior	UNDP	National Consultant-71300 (USD 1,500)	1,500.00
	<b>1.2 Activity</b>  <i>Conducting 2 consultation workshops with presence of all relevant stakeholders (national and provincial experts), engaging the relevant stakeholders and authorities</i>		1,500		-	UNDP in close cooperation with Ministry of interior	UNDP	National Consultant-71300 (1,500)	1,500.00
	<b>1.3 Activity</b>  <i>Preparing needs assessment and compiling baseline/situational analysis for the full-size project including precise definition of baseline projects, activities, budgets, goals and outcomes and indicators.</i>		1,000		-	UNDP in close cooperation with Ministry of interior	UNDP	National Consultant-71300 (1,000)	1,000.00

<sup>1</sup> Maximum 18 months

<i>Targets: ProDoc prepared and ready for signature</i> <i>CP outcome:1.1 and 1.2</i>	<b>1.4 Activity</b>  <i>Drafting project document based on UNDP templates and procedures (I. Development Challenge, II. Strategy, III. Results and Partnerships, IV. Project Management, V. Results Framework, VI. Monitoring &amp; Evaluation, . . .) integrating comments and/or recommendations of all stakeholders</i>			26,500	-	UNDP in close cooperation with Ministry of interior	UNDP	National Consultant-71300 (USD 1,500), International Consultants-71200 (USD 25,000)	26,500.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>26,500</b>					<b>30,500.00</b>