



Asia-Pacific Regional Youth Call to Action 2024



Iran

Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Eradicating Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises: The Effective Delivery of Sustainable, Resilient and Innovative Solutions in Asia and the Pacific with Young People at the Forefront

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON REINFORCING THE 2030 AGENDA

SDG 1 - No Poverty:

In the complex landscape of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the challenge of eradicating poverty becomes increasingly crucial, especially in the face of multiple crises. As we delve into the specific context of cities in Iran, it's evident that the situation regarding poverty is multifaceted. Tehran, the capital, with its diverse economic activities, faces distinct challenges compared to more rural areas. Urbanisation has led to both opportunities and disparities, as some areas thrive while others grapple with economic hardships. Moreover, the impact of external crises, such as economic sanctions, further exacerbates the poverty dynamics in the region.

SDG 2 - Zero Hunger:

Within the broader context of reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development amid multiple crises in Asia and the Pacific, addressing the issue of Zero Hunger is of paramount importance. In the diverse tapestry of Iran's cities, the challenge of ensuring food security varies significantly. Urban centres like Tehran may grapple with issues of access and affordability, while rural areas face challenges related to agricultural productivity and infrastructure.



SDG 5 - Gender Equality:

Amid the overarching goal of reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, achieving Gender Equality stands as a crucial pillar. The impact of gender disparities on poverty is evident in the cities of Iran, where cultural norms and economic structures contribute to unique challenges for women. Cities such as Isfahan and Yazd may witness varying degrees of gender inequality, influencing access to education, employment, and healthcare. Addressing these disparities is fundamental to ensuring the effective eradication of poverty and fostering sustainable development in the region.

Analysing the situation of poverty in Iranian cities through a gender lens reveals the necessity for targeted interventions. Tailoring policies to address the specific needs of women in urban and rural settings, considering factors such as access to credit, vocational training, and healthcare, is essential. Empowering women economically and socially can have a ripple effect on poverty reduction, contributing to the overall resilience and inclusivity of Iranian cities.

SDG 13 - Climate Action:

Amid the urgent need to reinforce the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, addressing Climate Action stands out as a critical pillar. The impact of climate change poses a significant threat to vulnerable communities, exacerbating existing challenges related to poverty. In Iran's cities, the repercussions of climate change contribute to a complex web of issues, including water scarcity, agricultural disruptions, and increased vulnerability to extreme weather events. These challenges disproportionately affect impoverished urban and rural areas, compounding the difficulties in achieving sustainable development goals.

SDG 16 - Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions:

In the pursuit of reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, the focus on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions is fundamental. The stability and effectiveness of institutions play a pivotal role in addressing poverty and fostering sustainable development. In the diverse cities of Iran, the strength of institutions influences the distribution of resources, access to justice, and the overall well-being of communities. Instances of political instability and governance challenges can exacerbate poverty, creating barriers to equitable development across urban and rural areas.

SDG 17 - Partnership for the Goals:

In the pursuit of reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, fostering Partnerships for the Goals emerges as a critical aspect. Collaboration between governments, private sector entities, and civil society is indispensable for addressing the complex challenges of poverty in Iranian cities amidst multiple crises. Across cities such as Tabriz and Shiraz, varying economic structures and regional dynamics necessitate diverse partnerships to effectively combat poverty. Building strong alliances enables the sharing of resources, expertise, and innovative solutions to create a collective impact on sustainable development.

Analysing poverty in Iranian cities underscores the need for tailored partnership strategies. For instance, the bustling city of Tehran may benefit from public-private partnerships focusing on job creation and economic diversification, while cities like Kerman may require collaborations emphasising agricultural development and water resource management. Encouraging multi-stakeholder engagements, including local communities, is essential to ensure that partnership initiatives align with the unique needs of each city, fostering inclusivity and ownership in the pursuit of shared goals.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

SDG 1 - No Poverty:

- To effectively address Iranian cities and contribute to the broader 2030 Agenda, a tailored approach is essential. Investing in sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions that cater to the unique needs of each locality is paramount.
- Empowering local communities through skill development programmes, promoting inclusive economic growth, and leveraging technology for efficient resource allocation are strategies that can make a tangible difference.
- Additionally, fostering international collaborations and partnerships can provide valuable insights and support in crafting comprehensive poverty alleviation initiatives. By acknowledging the diverse challenges within Iran and adopting context-specific solutions, we can contribute meaningfully to the global commitment of eradicating poverty by 2030.

SDG 2 - Zero Hunger:

- To effectively combat hunger in Iran's cities and contribute to the overarching Sustainable Development Goals, a holistic approach is necessary. Investing in sustainable agriculture practices, promoting local food production, and enhancing distribution networks can address urban and rural disparities.
- Implementing innovative solutions, such as precision farming and community-led agricultural initiatives, can boost productivity while fostering resilience in the face of external crises.
- Additionally, empowering communities through education on nutrition and sustainable farming practices can create a foundation for long-term food security. By tailoring strategies to the unique challenges of each city, Iran can make significant strides towards achieving zero hunger, aligning with the global commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

SDG 5 - Gender Equality:

- Recommendations to reinforce gender equality and alleviate poverty in Iranian cities involve implementing affirmative action policies that promote women's participation in various sectors. This includes creating opportunities for women entrepreneurs, enhancing access to education and healthcare, and challenging societal norms that perpetuate gender-based discrimination.
- Furthermore, fostering awareness through community engagement and education can contribute to changing attitudes and promoting gender-inclusive policies. By actively integrating gender perspectives into poverty alleviation strategies, Iranian cities can play a pivotal role in advancing the global commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

SDG 13 - Climate Action:

- To effectively tackle the intersection of climate action and poverty in Iranian cities, a comprehensive analysis is crucial. For instance, cities like Isfahan may experience water shortages, impacting agriculture and livelihoods, while coastal cities such as Bandar Abbas face the risks associated with rising sea levels. Tailored solutions that integrate climate resilience into poverty alleviation strategies are imperative. This involves investing in sustainable infrastructure, promoting renewable energy sources, and implementing adaptive measures for vulnerable communities.
- Moreover, fostering community engagement and awareness programs can empower citizens to actively participate in climate action initiatives, creating a more sustainable and resilient future for Iran.

- In navigating the challenges posed by climate change and poverty, international collaboration plays a pivotal role. Establishing partnerships for knowledge exchange, technological transfer, and financial support can significantly enhance Iran's capacity to implement effective solutions. By adopting an interdisciplinary approach that intertwines climate action with poverty eradication, Iranian cities can contribute substantially to the global effort of reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Furthermore, promoting a culture of inclusivity and dialogue can contribute to peaceful coexistence, creating an environment where strong institutions actively work towards social justice and poverty reduction. By addressing the foundations of peace, justice, and strong institutions, Iranian cities can play a significant role in advancing the global commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

SDG 16 - Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions:

- To address the intersection of peace, justice, and poverty in Iranian cities, a nuanced analysis is necessary. Cities like Mashhad, with its cultural significance, may require tailored strategies to ensure justice and inclusivity, while resource-rich cities like Ahvaz may need measures to prevent exploitation and promote fair resource allocation. Strengthening institutions involves promoting transparency, accountability, and rule of law.
- Additionally, investing in education and awareness programs can empower citizens to actively participate in governance processes, fostering a sense of justice and community cohesion.
- International collaboration is vital in reinforcing institutions for sustainable development and poverty eradication. Building partnerships for capacity-building, knowledge transfer, and technical support can enhance the resilience of institutions in Iranian cities.

SDG 17 - Partnership for the Goals:

- Recommendations for strengthening partnerships in the context of poverty alleviation in Iranian cities involve creating platforms for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and resource-sharing. Establishing collaborative initiatives that involve government bodies, businesses, NGOs, and local communities can lead to more holistic and sustainable solutions.
- Furthermore, incentivising innovative financing models and promoting technology transfer through international partnerships can enhance the capacity of Iranian cities to implement resilient and effective poverty eradication strategies. By emphasising the importance of collaborative efforts, cities in Iran can contribute significantly to the collective ambition of reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The APFSD country and sub-regional briefs were developed through collective discussions and engagements between youth advocates at the APFSD Youth Forum in Bangkok on February 15-17, 2024. The Iran drafting team was led by Hadiseh Bahrami. Overall supervision was provided by the ARROW Call To Action team.
