



WHO Representative Dr Syed Jaffar Hussain and UNIDO Representative Ms Maryam Javan Shahraki exchange project agreements during the signing ceremony. Photo: WHO/Islamic Republic of Iran

8 December – In a new commitment to support national immunization efforts, the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) have signed an agreement for a partnership to strengthen the local vaccine cold chain system, with a focus on remote and underprivileged areas of the country.

The high calibre joint agreement was signed by WHO Representative and Head of Mission Dr Syed Jaffar Hussain and UNIDO Representative Ms Maryam Javan Shahraki, during an official ceremony at the WHO country office on 6 December, in the presence of authorities from the Expanded Programme on Immunization, International Relations Department of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Islamic Republic of Iran Mr Stefan Priesner.

The cooperation will lay the foundation to equip cold rooms located in the provinces of Golestan in the northeast, and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad in the west, with eco-friendly, resilient, and sustainable cooling systems within the framework of a project titled “Developing sustainable and resilient cold chain to facilitate access to COVID-19 tools in Islamic Republic of Iran”. It has been defined and funded to support the Ministry of Health and Medical Education in line with a global mutual agreement in place between the two UN agencies since 1989, according to which various two-way activities including on personnel, joint projects, and financing services are foreseen and committed globally.

It aims to promote the sustainable eco-friendly cold chain system and create an innovative business model through cooperation with the public or private local communities in combination with technical knowhow, as well as shared expertise of both agencies in industrial, technical, and health-related areas to effectively support the government to respond to and cope with the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

