



GEF Small Grants Programme

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) that implemented locally by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) operates on the premise that people will be empowered to protect their environment and livelihood when they are organized to take action, have a measure of control over access to the natural resource base, have the necessary information and knowledge, and believe that their social and economic well-being is dependent on sound long-term resource management.



The Programme provides support, including but not limited to grants, to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) for identifying and demonstrating effective community-based approaches addressing local problems related to the global environment.

In Iran, SGP started in 2001 and is presently being implemented in close collaboration with its National Steering Committee which includes representatives from both non-government and governmental organizations.

UNDP's COVID-19 Risk Communication- Community Engagement Initiative

The onset of COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 significantly strained many countries' medical services and disrupted many communities' access to livelihoods. As of April 2020, the Islamic Republic of Iran was the 8th most affected country by the pandemic in terms of the number of people infected by or lost to COVID-19.

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To operationalize the Risk Communication & Community Engagement pillar, UNDP collaborated with The GEF Small Grants Programme that already had a well-established network of local non-governmental organizations and community-based

To ensure that the information disseminated within the framework of this project is on par with the most recent international standards and national guidelines related to COVID-19 response, a Communications Consultant was hired to harmonize content production and assist all the 27 grantees with customizing the content to their local communities' language and specific needs. As the project also aims to develop the capacities of the local NGOs throughout this project, 12 Guidelines – covering the most important aspects of the intervention. Additionally, multiple group and one-on-one technical meetings were held with the grantees to ensure that they have access to required assistance.

In addition to the awareness raising sessions by the grantees to the beneficiaries, hand sanitizers and surgical face masks were distributed among the specific target groups in each grant projects.

Summary of UNDP SGP RCCE Initiative Status: October 2021		
RCCE Fund (USD)	554,343	Utilized 523,848 USD (94%)
Grant Projects	27	15K to 20K
Provinces	16	Most effected by COVID-19
Beneficiaries	270,000	10,000 in each project
Localized educational and advocacy content created by grant beneficiaries	More than 270	Various media: Poster, brochure, banner, infographic, educational clip, podcast and booklet
PPE Packages	Surgical face masks and hand sanitizer	Distributed among the most vulnerable target groups