

# UN SECRETARY-GENERAL APPROVES SHORT LIST OF 64 NEW PROJECTS



The UN Secretary-General has approved a short list of 64 project proposals for UNDEF's Fifth Round of Funding, following recommendations by the United Nations Democracy Fund Advisory Board. Competition for this year's short list was stiffer than ever before, with more than 3,700 project proposals received -- almost twice as many as previous years. UNDEF congratulates all those short-listed, and thanks all who applied.

Inclusion in the short list is a significant achievement. But it does not in itself mean that the project proposal will be funded. Applicants will now be required to proceed to the final stage of the selection process -- negotiating a Project Document with UNDEF, which is in effect a contract between the grantor and the grantee. Only on the satisfactory conclusion of a project document, and its approval by the United Nations Controller, will the proposed project be formally approved for funds disbursement. Once the process is complete, UNDEF will publish the list of grantees.

Given the number of applications, it is not possible for UNDEF to advise unsuccessful applicants of the results, or to enter into a dialogue on individual proposals. If applicants have not yet received an email from UNDEF to the contact points provided on the application, they can assume that their proposals are not on the final short list.

We encourage future applicants to read the lessons learned published in UNDEF Update 6, and, with that as a guide, to begin already now to think through any future applications.

With 64 project proposals on the short list, the total number of projects funded by UNDEF will rise to over 400 in more than 150 countries. Of the new projects, more than 30 per cent are in Africa, followed by over 20 per cent in Asia. The Arab world has an unprecedented 15 per cent of the total, in this historic year for democratization in the region. Equally unprecedented development is that 15 per cent of the projects are focused on youth.

While funding constraints make it impossible to include every high-quality proposal, it is still possible to say with confidence that all those proposals recommended for the Fifth Round of Funding are consistently of high quality. The list is the product of a thorough process of assessment, quality vetting, due diligence and lessons learned from previous rounds.

*"In this historic year for democracy movements in the Arab world, the region has an unprecedented 15 per cent of the total number of short-listed projects"*

the UNDEF Advisory Board and the UN Resident Coordinator in

each country concerned were invited to provide quality control by looking at the capabilities of the applicant organization, the field in which the project was based and the degree of complementarity or duplication with other UN activities in the field.

Comments were also sought from the UNDEF Programme Consultative Group, making use of the specific expertise of each of its entities: the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the UN Development Programme, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and UN Women.

*Analysis of project selection, page 2*

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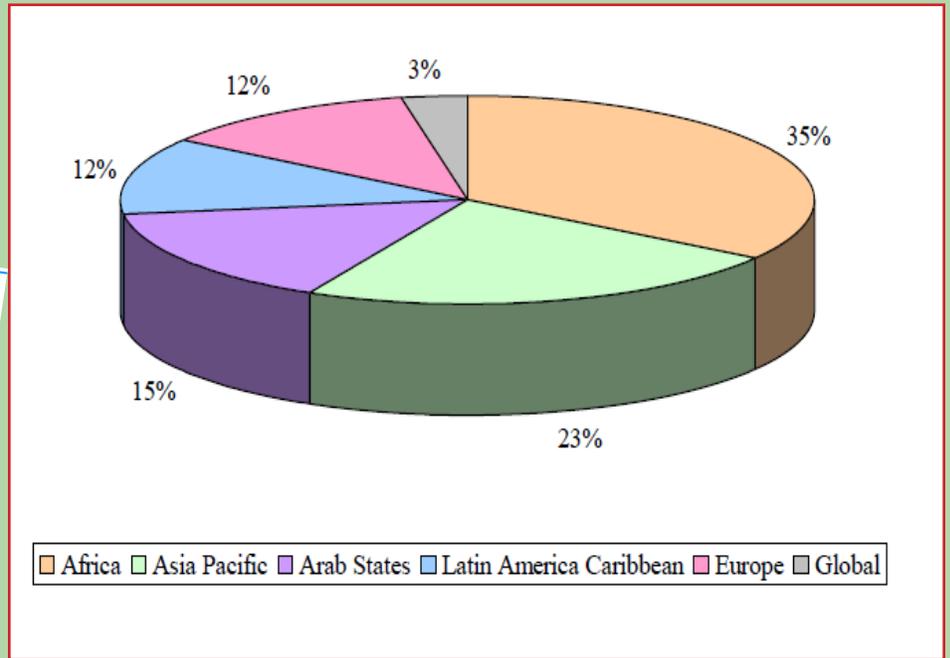
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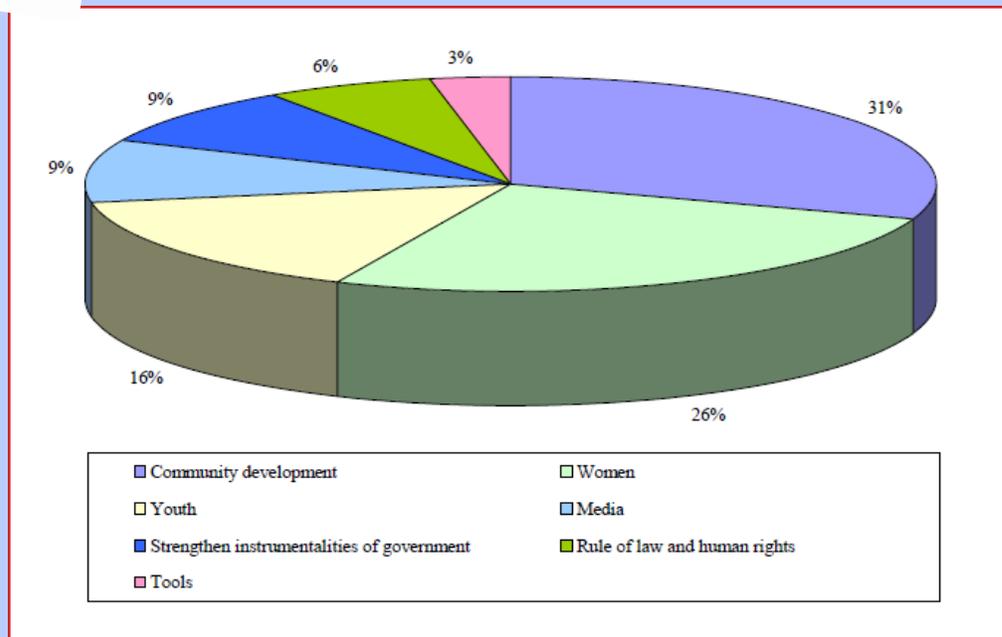
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INSIDE UNDEF

# PROJECTS ALLOCATED BY REGION



# PROJECTS BY KEY ACTIVITY



# The **DOERS** of **DEMOCRACY**



An UNDEF-funded project in Hungary, Serbia and Slovakia uses theatre to teach democratic concepts to youth from minorities and marginalized societies.



Having your voice heard! is an UNDEF-supported project in Ukraine and Moldova to enhance democratic participation and increase trust between government and civil society.

'The Doers of Democracy', an exhibition of photographs organized by UNDEF, was held in the Visitors' Lobby of UN Headquarters in New York from 9 May to 12 July 2011. The photographs, artefacts and publications in the exhibition came from just a small share of UNDEF projects around the world, and represent a fraction of the work done every day by the courageous men and women who strive to make the voice of their communities heard, their human rights respected and their democratic participation felt. The exhibition was sponsored by Deloitte; which provides project observation for UNDEF in the field, opened with a message from UN Secretary-General BAN Ki-Moon.



At a time of youth-driven change in the region, UNDEF funds a project in Morocco focused on educating the youth and women as trainers in public and electoral affairs



Building on historic events of 2011 in Tunisia, an UNDEF-backed initiative promotes women's leadership and gender equality.



In Colombia, UNDEF funds an initiative for women's participation as a means to peace. The project focuses on the community of Soacha, site of a deep controversy over alleged extrajudicial executions.

## INSIDE UNDEF

## PHOTO EXHIBITION



*In China, UNDEF funds a project to raise public awareness of the environment, protect clean environment as a human right, and promote policy efforts to establish an environmental public interest litigation system – critical issues in the coming years*

*Training future leaders at a time of change is essential in Myanmar. An UNDEF-supported initiative works to build communities and reconcile differences between the Shan, Kachin and Kayah minorities.*



*In India, the world's largest democracy, UNDEF funds a project to strengthen the leadership of women elected to Gram Panchayats, or village councils*



*In a patriarchal Nepal, UNDEF funds a project to integrate the rights of widows in the new Constitution and build leadership skills for them to run for parliament*



*In Tanzania, justice and the rule of law are essential to empowering women to fight AIDS. An UNDEF-supported partnership between women judges and grassroots activists strengthen the role of the judiciary in addressing AIDS-related issues.*



*In Burundi, the challenge is to keep addressing the divisive factors that drove the armed conflict, while finding ways to nurture democracy. UNDEF funds an initiative to bring communities together and train women for leadership.*



*An UNDEF-funded project in Ethiopia works to integrate people of the Menja minority, who are cattered throughout the country and vulnerable to social exclusion.*

*Community radio plays a key role in upholding the rights of all groups as established in Ghana's 1992 Constitution . UNDEF funds a project to The Ghana Community Radio Network ensures that marginalized rural groups have the radio frequencies they need*



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

# RUSSIAN NGOs Learn TO LOBBY OFFICIALDOM



How can civil society in Russia work more effectively with the authorities to achieve positive change? UNDEF funds an initiative to build skills among Russian NGOs that lack experience in interacting with officialdom and in communicating their message effectively. The project, implemented by the SocInvest Foundation, held a round table in Samara in April 2011, bringing together a range of organizers including the Regional Ministry of Public Health; the Russian State Social University; Social Lawyers for Civil Society; and regional NGOs.



The round table discussed ways of strengthening women's NGOs in effective lobbying; developing voluntary movements to address homelessness; involving youth in fighting poverty and supporting marginalized groups; and launching innovative pilot projects in art studios, street magazines, and legal self-representation. Participants came from civil society groups in St. Petersburg, Tosno, Vladimir, Penza, Cheboksary and Voronezh.

## Holding your local representative ACCOUNTABLE in UKRAINE

In Ukraine, UNDEF funds a project to build skills among NGOs and citizens to engage in political processes and hold their local government officials accountable. The project works in eight regions throughout East and West Ukraine to improve citizens' advocacy; train them in accessing information from their local representatives and elected officials; find and use tools to monitor and evaluate elected officials' work; make recommendations to local parties and coalitions on the transparent composition of party lists; and identify ways to make the elected candidates more accountable to their constituents.

The initiative, titled "Your Local Representative" and implemented by the East Europe Foundation and local partners, takes account of the challenges that followed the introduction of the proportional electoral system in Ukraine five years ago. Political parties remain closed and untransparent, and the connection between representatives and voters is growing weaker. Representatives have no relationship with their regional constituents, and lack incentives to work in the regions.



The project held training activities in mid-June throughout the eight regions -- Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Odesa, Ternopil, Vinnytsya, Zaporizhzhia and Crimea. UNDEF Deputy Executive Head Annika Savill (pictured above, far right) attended workshops in Kharkiv on access to information, including how to use Ukraine's new right to information legislation, and sessions in Chernihiv on advocacy and strategy.



WORTH READING

# A WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT FOR AZERBAIJAN



In Azerbaijan, a transitional society shaped by vast oil and gas resources, UNDEF funds a new project to create a 'women's parliament'. The initiative will serve as tool to both give more meaning to women's rights in Azerbaijan, and to improve governance in the country as a whole. It draws on the expertise of women active in all sectors in an effort to move beyond window dressing and promote greater transparency and accountability.



Implemented by the Azerbaijani Women's Association for Rational Development, the project will address issues of high relevance to Azerbaijani women, ranging from child and maternal mortality to girls' education, support for women entrepreneurs, early marriage, improved housing and the minority rights.



The parliament became operational in July following final thematic training sessions throughout June, attended by UNDEF Deputy Executive Head Annika Savill (pictured above, leading a training session). Members are women leaders from civil society organizations throughout Azerbaijan, as well as prominent individuals in both business and academia.

# Building DEMOCRACY in the HIGH-ALTITUDE Himalayas

India has the largest tribal population in the world, with more than 460 tribes comprising some 85 million people. Almost one third are in the Himalayan region. They face a range of challenges, from displacement and exclusion to poverty and illiteracy. An UNDEF-funded project works to strengthen civic participation among high-altitude tribes in Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.



The project, implemented by Pragma, works through awareness campaigns to educate communities in rights, laws, democratic processes, and civic literacy; builds resource centres to create a critical mass for effective political participation; and educates young people to act as "barefoot monitors" of welfare services and human rights protection mechanisms.



## NEWS FROM THE FIELD

# A **BREAKTHROUGH** for **MONITORING** ELECTION **FINANCE** in **Zimbabwe**

Zimbabwe has taken important steps towards democracy over the past few years. To consolidate these developments, UNDEF funds a project to lay the foundations for independent election-monitoring in new areas, including campaign finance, electoral violence and gender-related participation.



The Zimbabwean Election Support Network, supported by the Electoral Reform International Services, has developed a pilot monitoring strategy, produced educational materials, and trained more than 200 monitors nationwide -- all to expand its monitoring capability, with a focus on campaign finance. Campaign finance monitoring is of crucial importance in Zimbabwe, where politicians are not legally obliged to disclose campaign expenditures.



The new monitoring strategy was developed in consultation with political finance expert Magnus Öhman of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, with input from governance experts Kennedy Masime of Kenya, Victor Shale of South Africa and others. The innovative monitoring methodology can evaluate the cost of campaigns as well as identify potential abuse, such as civil servants advocating for a specific candidate, or politicians using state vehicles and other government resources for campaign purposes. Monitors are also trained to identify and report triggers of election-related violence, and to bring to public attention gender-related barriers to political participation.

## POUR la **PARTICIPATION** des **JEUNES** au **BURKINA**



Au Burkina Faso, les jeunes constituent plus de 50 pour cent des électeurs. Or, une étude récente indique que moins de 40 pour cent des jeunes inscrits sur les listes électorales votent. Le FNUD soutient un projet qui a pour but de renforcer les capacités des jeunes membres d'associations, afin qu'ils puissent contribuer à améliorer la participation des jeunes à la gestion des affaires publiques, au contrôle citoyen et aux élections. Le projet permet d'inculquer aux jeunes des pratiques citoyennes par le respect des principes démocratiques en vue de renforcer la démocratie, l'Etat de droit et la bonne gouvernance, facteurs de lutte réussie pour la réduction de la pauvreté. En mai 2011, le projet a organisé une représentation de théâtre-forum d'éducation et de sensibilisation à Ramongo, au Centre-Ouest du pays, sur la participation des jeunes aux processus électoraux.



WORTH READING

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**TUNISIA AND EGYPT:**

**WHAT** is the **IMPACT** on the **ARAB WORLD?**

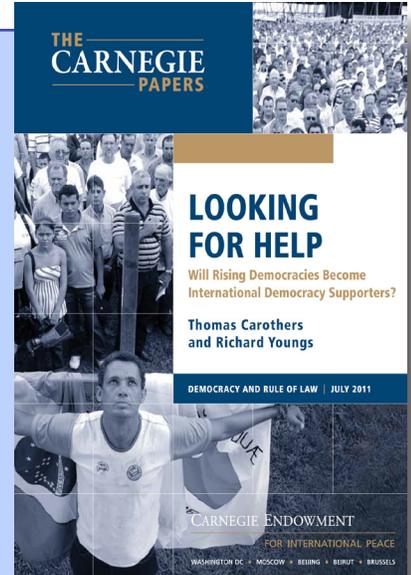


*“A democratic Middle East is going to be more demanding of us -- and a democratizing Middle East will be even more so” - Zalmay Khalilzad*

The UNDEF-funded Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy held its annual conference in April to discuss lessons learned from the revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt. Speakers included Jaloul Ayed, Tunisia’s Minister of Finance; Saad Eddine Ibrahim, Chair of the Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies; Dennis Ross, Special Assistant to President Obama and senior director of the National Security Council; Zalmay Khalilzad, former US ambassador to Iraq, Afghanistan, and the UN; and Roland Rich, Executive Head, UNDEF.

**EMERGING ENGAGEMENT:**  
**THE NEW POTENTIAL**

In a Carnegie Paper in the Democracy and Rule of Law series, Thomas Carothers and Richard Youngs examine the foreign policies of Brazil, India, Indonesia, South Africa and Turkey with regard to their engagement in supporting democracy and human rights outside their borders. They note India’s position as the second largest contributor to the UN Democracy Fund.



At this crucial time for democratization efforts in several countries, UNDEF hosted a seminar to present the findings of a vast study about how well the democracy support family is assisting the many actors in the field. Discussants were, pictured left to right, Dr. Larry Diamond, Dr. Richard Youngs, Dr. Roland Rich and Dr. Joel Barkan. The study was based on feedback from democracy support grantees and conducted under the auspices of the World Movement for Democracy, involving a wide range of donor organizations. As part of the effort, UNDEF funded a project implemented by the Madrid-based Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior, FRIDE.

You can view a webcast of the 9 May seminar here.

**UNDEF SEMINAR:**  
**How to**  
**REVITALIZE**  
**DEMOCRACY**  
**SUPPORT?**

*“Let’s not neglect the persistence of democracy, however challenged it may be, in low- and lower middle-income countries, far beyond its ‘predicted’ life expectancy... There is increasing evidence -- surprisingly pervasive and durable evidence -- that democracy is a universal value.” - Larry Diamond*