

# 2600 PROJECT PROPOSALS FROM GROUPS IN 136 COUNTRIES



The Round 10 window for project proposals was open from 15 November 2015 until 31 December 2015. There were 2,664 proposals submitted from 136 countries, up more than 300 from 2014. Proposals came from all over the world, the vast majority from local civil society organizations in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. In the first phase of the selection process, the proposals are assessed by independent consultants, who judge each proposal on its inherent quality and scores it against 10 set criteria:

- Does the proposed project advance the objectives of UNDEF?
- Does the applicant organization have a strong track record?
- Is the proposal technically sound in conception and presentation?
- Does the proposal make use of the UN's and UNDEF's comparative advantage?
- Would the proposed project have significant impact?
- Would the proposed project represent good value for money?
- Does the proposed project have strong prospects for successful implementation?
- Does the proposed project have strong prospects of sustainability beyond the project duration?
- Does the proposed project encourage inclusiveness?
- Would the proposed project enhance gender equality?

This assessment yields a long list which is in turn reviewed by UN Resident Coordinators in the field and by the UNDEF Programme Consultative Group -- comprising the UN Department of Political Affairs, the UN Department of

Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Peacebuilding Support Office, the UN Rule of Law Unit, the UN Development Programme, UN Women, and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Based on this collective input, the UNDEF Secretariat produces a first short-list of some 50 proposals to be discussed and endorsed by the UNDEF Advisory Board and ultimately submitted to the Secretary-General for approval. Given the large volume of proposals, only applicants who advance to the short list will be contacted by UNDEF. This is expected to happen around June 2016, after which the process moves into the next stage. Only upon finalizing the project document will the proposal be formally approved, usually after September 2016. And by then we'll be getting ready for Round 11 when the next window for proposals will open in November.

Given the historic agreement by UN member states in September 2015 outlining 17 goals for sustainable development until 2030, the overarching focus of the 2015 round of UNDEF funding is on holding governments to account for the achievement of those goals. This year, UNDEF is expecting to fund approximately 50 projects.

Check out the UNDEF [Facebook](#) page and follow us on [Twitter](#) for updates about the project process.



## INSIDE UNDEF

## New UNDEF Board appointed for a two-year term

The Secretary-General has finalized the composition of the 2016-2017 UNDEF Advisory Board -- the body which gives him policy guidance and recommends funding proposals for his approval.

The Board is reconstituted every two years. It includes the Governments of the seven largest UNDEF donors as measured by cumulative contributions received for the past three years -- for this term, the United States, Sweden, Germany, India, Australia, Poland and Japan. It also includes six Member States that reflect geographical diversity -- for this term, Algeria, Barbados, Colombia, Nigeria, Slovakia, and Sri Lanka.

Aracelly Santana of Ecuador will remain as Chair, a position she has held since 2014. From her past UN career, Ms. Santana brings valuable and wide-ranging experience of great relevance to UNDEF, including as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Nepal, Deputy Director of the UN Electoral Assistance Division, and Deputy to the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post Conflict Planning for Libya.

Also joining the Board for a second term is Marjorie Tiven, the founder of Global Cities, Inc, a programme of Bloomberg Philanthropies, working with cities worldwide

to support global awareness among the next generation through cross-national interactive educational programmes. Previously, Ms. Tiven served for 12 years as Commissioner of the New York City Mayor's Office for International Affairs.

UNDEF's celebrity Board member **Jeffrey Wright** (actor) will remain on the Board. Appointed in 2012, Mr. Wright is an award-winning film, television and stage actor as well as an activist for community empowerment in Sierra Leone. He is best known for his roles on Boardwalk Empire, The Hunger Games, and Casino Royale.

The new Board also includes two global civil society organizations. One is the **International Center for Not-for-Profit Law**, the leading global source for knowledge on the legal environment for civil society, philanthropy and public participation. Since 1993, the Center has served as a resource to civil society leaders, government officials, and the donor community in over 100 communities. The other is **Techo**, also known as Un Techo para mi Pais, a youth-led non-profit organization working in over 20 countries to promote community development in slums through community strengthening and organizing for representative validated leadership and participation of thousands of families.



Un techo para mi Pais





## NEWS FROM THE FIELD:

## In the middle: The silence within Colombian journalism

The recent UN Security Council resolution establishing a UN mission in Colombia to monitor a peace agreement ending over five decades of conflict represents an historic opportunity for strengthening democracy in the country.

With journalists as a common target of violence, one of the casualties of this protracted conflict has been independent media in the country. With the opportunities presented by the peace process, an UNDEF funded project seeks to promote freedom of expression by increasing awareness among the Government, FARC and Civil Society of the impact conflict has had on the media's ability to exercise the freedom of expression as a fundamental right. The project works with journalists in conflict affected areas so that they have a better understanding of the role they can play in supporting peace.

Activities undertaken by UNDEF's implementing partner, the **Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa**/ Press Freedom Foundation, will include an international forum with international and national journalists to take part in open, plural and democratic debate around the topic; freedom of expression and the challenges for reaching the peace. The project's objective is to strengthen media networks in Colombia to develop an Agenda for Freedom of Expression which will be submitted, as part of the peace process, to the Office of the High Commissioner of Peace in Havana.



## Accountability and citizens' access to information in Argentina

A New UNDEF project in Buenos Aires, Cordoba, La Plata, Mendoza and Rosario recently launched a number of investigative journalism initiatives. These activities will contribute to the overall objective to promote citizens' greater involvement in the monitoring of public affairs and to improve their access to data and information.

The project aims to enhance the involvement of citizens through their collective participation in the production of news contents and enhanced access to data. Implementing partner **Chequado** will work with local journalists so that citizens in these cities will have more of a say through their involvement in gathering and processing data for the investigations and through the opportunities made available to them for monitoring and demanding accountability from their leaders. The project also aims to provide better data about the topics covered in by the investigations and innovate in media and journalism by conducting data-based and crowd-sourced investigative reporting for the first time in the country. Activities will include the organization of Fact-checkathons, public requests for information and creative street campaigns as a means to involve local communities in data re-compilation and processing, communicate the results of the investigations and set in motion accountability processes. The project will be complemented by a media and social networks campaign.



Read more about it at the [Chequado blog](#).

## NEWS FROM THE FIELD:

## Emerging leaders of the Middle East



What kind of leadership skills and qualities are needed by young people to build just and democratic societies? This is one of the key questions that the UNDEF-funded **World Youth Alliance Middle East** is hoping to answer in training young people in the Arab region.

At a recent event in Beirut, Lebanon, a number of Lebanese students participated in training sessions tackling, among other things the relationship between the individual and the state. Two training sessions focused on leadership, concentrating on communication skills and teamwork as well as ethics and empathy and involved public speaking exercises where trainer and fellow trainees provided feedback to each other). Human Rights were discussed from the perspective of liberty, equality, and security. The concepts were related to the specificities of Lebanon, focusing on the freedom to bring change in terms of human rights in Lebanon which should be based on dignity of individuals. The meeting was an opportunity for the trainees from different institutions to



meet each other, exchange information and experiences and build networks for informal future cooperation. Following the training, the participants will use the skills they've developed to work on specific community projects that would have a cascading effect.

The overall goal of the project is to build the capacities of 20 young opinion shapers through Training of Trainers and two regional forums, train 600 youth leaders through 40 national workshops in five countries. All the lessons learned will be compiled into a guide that will support this new network of 620 "Emerging Leaders of the Arab Region."

## Mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab civil society agenda

Another UNDEF project recently launched with **Arab NGO Network for Development** in five countries in the Middle East and North Africa region – Lebanon, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Morocco - with the goal to enhance participation of civil society organizations into the sustainable development agenda.

The project aims to increase accountability for the Sustainable Development Goals through building a permanent Arab forum that will build capacity, promote social dialogue and influence policy making.

In a recent report Arab Millennium Development Goals, it was shown that Arab countries have achieved progress on many indicators, especially progress towards education targets. However, they have failed in promoting inclusive development and are faced with tackling socioeconomic development challenges to address the aspirations of citizens.

This new project aims to address the process of democratic transition in the Arab region, with a focus on socio-economic reforms to contribute to reshaping development models and policies.



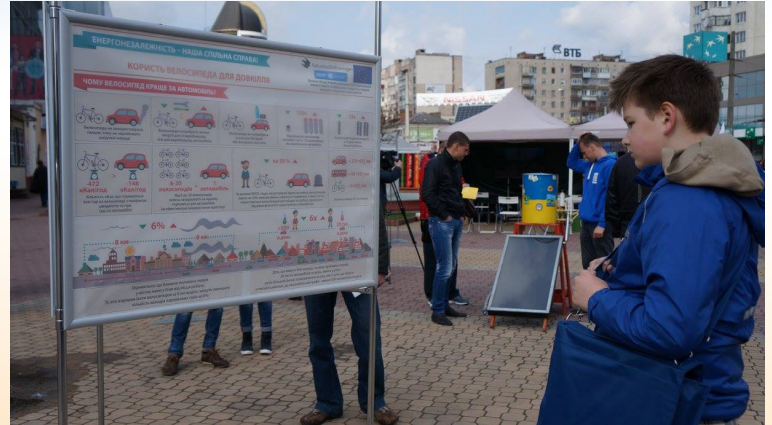
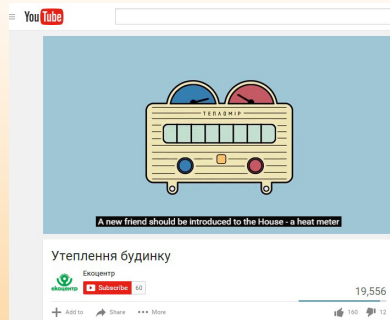


## NEWS FROM THE FIELD:

## Developing the energy sector in Ukraine for the benefit of the public

A project in Ukraine implemented by the **National Ecological Centre** has worked over the past two years to increase the participation of Ukrainian citizens and NGOs in decision-making regarding energy infrastructure projects and government policies on energy/climate change. A series of information tours in partnership with local NGOs and media campaigns (such as animation films) have helped highlight the importance of renewable energy solutions and practical means of engaging with local municipalities to address these.

As part of the project two animation films were produced. One of them displays in simple form what to do to save energy in houses, link [here](#). The other film informs the public of their rights and responsibilities in local government decision-making processes, link [here](#).



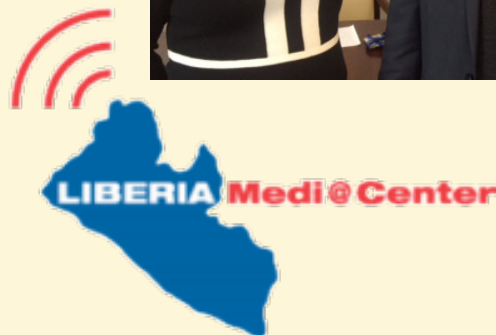
## Launch of project in Liberia to fight corruption and foster transparency

During a recent visit to New York, Mr. Lamii Kpargoi, Officer in Charge of the **Liberia Media Center**, talked to UNDEF about the timeliness and importance of their project to train journalists in transparency and anti-corruption reporting.

Although tremendous progress has been made in Liberia since the end of the civil war in 2003, public institutions are still weak and vulnerable to corruption and graft. Lack of access to information has sustained corrupt practices and contributed to low-levels of public accountability and a lack of trust in the State. Tackling corruption and fostering transparency will be crucial for Liberia in the run-up to the third post-civil war national elections taking place in 2017.

The project, which launched on 4 January 2016, has started by identifying local citizen based organizations who can engage at the community level with discussions and awareness-raising on the impact of corruption. The project has also identified individual journalists in local radio stations who will be trained on anti-corruption reporting. The LMC's approach is of "learning by doing" with the five day training involving producing real life stories with the support of mentors.

Mr. Kpargoi also highlighted a number of challenges the project faces including the wider political culture in Liberia that was based more on local affiliations than on policy and a lack of what he called a "news eye" in many journalists, who tended to rely on personality driven stories.



## Debate, dialogue and democracy in El Salvador hits the headlines

A newly launched UNDEF project in El Salvador generated some attention when it held its first regional **debate** with young leaders to discuss some of the many issues facing youth in the country such as crime, social violence and inequality. The project also made a splash on **TV**.

The goal of the project is to bring together youth from all sectors, highlighting the importance of dialogue to address the many issues facing young people and encouraging a political space that challenges corruption and personal interests. Implementing partner Conexion will work with leaders of youth organizations across the country to identify issues to be debated and will follow up with debate and dialogue sessions in each regional headquarters. The project will then train young leaders in leadership skills as well as political activism, culminating in a National Youth Debate and Dialogue Forum, which will develop a National Youth Agenda for Democracy, (a policy document to be used for future activism activities of youth leaders). Public awareness will be raised via the broadcasting of debates through a number of media sources and the production of videos. Civil society organizations, media and political actors will be involved through briefing sessions on the importance of the youth voices and their agenda.



## Making the news: UNDEF-funded community radio launches series on India's Constitution

As part of a project with **CG Net** to support for grassroots democracy and to facilitate grassroots media communication, UNDEF partner, the Society for Integrated Tribal and Rural Action, worked with Ideosync Media Combine to launch a radio series on the importance of India's constitution.

The radio series hit the headlines in the Indian press with a story in the national news focusing on how the radio series connected listeners to the Constitution by showing how the values laid out in the preamble connect to ordinary daily life. The **radio series** will also allow listeners across the region to join live discussions on the meaning of the Constitution.

In the world's largest democracy, the project has worked with community radio to build capacity and develop content. The overall objective of the project is to increase access to relevant, contextual, appropriate, engaging and informational content on democracy and local governance so that citizens can more effectively participate in local governance processes.

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**Gurgaon community radio launches series on Constitution**

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A Gurgaon-based community radio station — **Gurgaon Ki Awaaz** — on Monday launched a new radio series called "Hamara Samvidhaan." The initiative has been introduced in partnership with "We the People", a network that aims at expanding active, engaged and informed citizenry in the country and with local support from the District Legal Services Authority here. The radio station gets programmatic and research support from Ideosync Media Combine and the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF).

The 13-part series delves into the importance of the Constitution of India, and focuses on the values laid out in the Preamble. In each episode, experts will connect with listeners to show how every value laid out in the Preamble is connected deeply with our daily life, and the growth and betterment of the society we live in. Students from District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), as well as thousands of listeners across Gurgaon, will be able to call into the studio to join the live discussions.