

INSIDE UNDEF

SECRETARY-GENERAL APPROVES SHORT LIST OF 72 NEW PROJECTS

The UN Secretary-General has approved a short list of 72 project proposals for UNDEF's Sixth Round of Funding, following recommendations by the United Nations Democracy Fund Advisory Board. Competition for this year's short list was stiff, with almost 3,000 project proposals received. 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 approved for funding. Applicants are now required to complete 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.

Given the number of applications, it is not possible for UNDEF to contact unsuccessful applicants individually. If applicants have not yet received an email from UNDEF, they can assume that their proposals are not on the final short list.

The next window for project proposals is expected to open in mid-November. We encourage future applicants to start preparing now by going to the UNDEF



website and reading project proposal guidelines, lessons learned for applicants, frequently asked questions and summaries of existing projects.

The Sixth Round of Funding comes as momentous efforts for democratization continue to unfold in countries around the world, while challenges old and new evolve in others. With 72 countries on the short list, the total number of projects funded by UNDEF will rise to about 480.

The short list is the product of a thorough process of assessment, quality vetting, due diligence and lessons learned from previous Rounds. The proposals were first vetted by a team of six independent international assessors, combining some 60 years of programme and project experience. Each proposal was scored against 10 set criteria: promotes the objectives of UNDEF; draws on the United Nations comparative advantage; will have a significant impact; will encourage inclusiveness; will enhance gender equality; has strong prospects for successful implementation; has a strong track record; is technically sound in conception and presentation; represents good value for money; has strong prospects of sustainability beyond the project duration.

To narrow down the list further, comments were sought by Experts of the UNDEF Advisory Board, UN Resident Coordinators, and the UNDEF Programme Consultative Group: 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



BAN KI-MOON AND UNDEF CELEBRATE DEMOCRACY EDUCATION ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

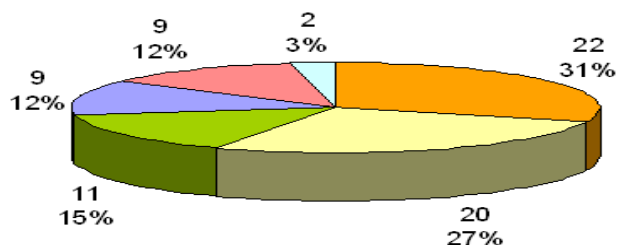
UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlights the importance of democracy education in his **message** for this year's International Day of Democracy on 15 September. He writes that democracy education is "needed so that all citizens in all nations, in democracies young and old, established or fragile, fully understand their rights and responsibilities. And it is especially needed in countries that have made recent democratic gains so that progress made does not unravel

"The United Nations is strongly committed to working with partners to develop global and local initiatives that elevate democracy education as an integral part of all education initiatives and as a component of long-term governance strategies. Let us build partnerships between international education experts and Governments to develop and disseminate best practices. Let us develop a culture of civic participation to explore opportunities made possible by new media, and support countries in devising curricula and training methods."

To mark the Day, UNDEF will join Governments, the Community of Democracies, the Organization of American States, the UN Institute for Training and Research and UNESCO at an **event** on democracy education on 17 September. UNDEF Executive Head Roland Rich will participate in a panel discussion along with the Permanent Representatives of Mongolia and Poland, the President of the Council for a Community of Democracies, the Director of Education and Culture of the Organization of American States and others. The event coincides with the launch of a new UNDEF-funded **project** to put democracy education into wider practice.

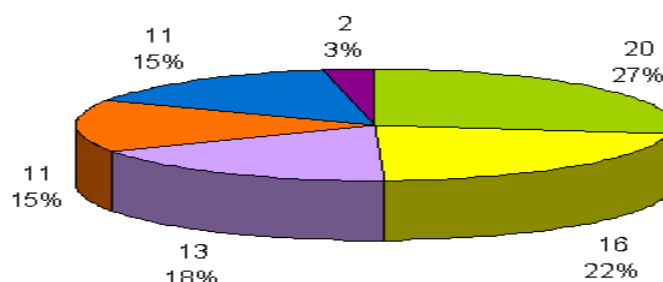
ANALYSIS OF UNDEF'S SIXTH ROUND PROJECT SELECTIONS

Projects by region



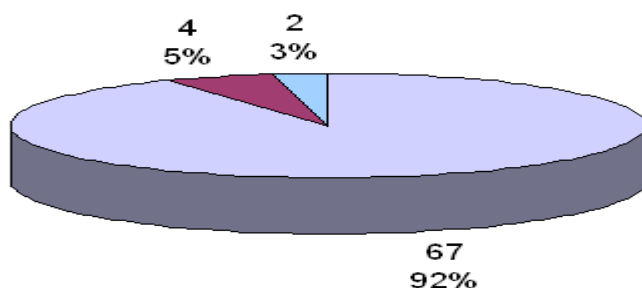
■ Africa
 ■ Asia/Pacific
 ■ Arab States
 ■ Europe
 ■ Latin America and the Caribbean
 ■ Global

Projects by key activity



■ Community
 ■ Youth
 ■ Rule of Law and Human Rights
 ■ Media
 ■ Strengthen Instrumentalities of Government
 ■ Women's Empowerment

Projects by location type



■ Local
 ■ Regional
 ■ Global

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS in LAOS



UNDEF finances an initiative in Laos to empower civil social organizations to contribute meaningfully to the country's development and good governance. The project focuses on training and capacity-building for civil society leaders in strategic planning, organizational values, business planning, annual report writing, and managing organizations in accordance with international codes of conduct.



It also includes a study visits in Thailand to discuss community development and meet with international donors, including the private sector, so as to learn about donor expectations. The project is implemented by the Kenan Institute Asia. UNDEF Deputy Executive Head Mikiko Sawanishi (third from right) visited the project in July 2012.

STRENGTHENING ADVOCACY CAPACITY in VIETNAM



In Vietnam, UNDEF funds two projects to strengthen civil society organizations' capacity for advocacy as well as their ability to contribute to democratic policy development and to environmental governance. One is implemented by the Hanoi-based Research Center for Management and Sustainable Development in partnership with a core team of 10 Vietnamese civil society organizations, focusing on networking, cooperation and communication both among civil society groups and with related government bodies. It also supports the organizations to work as effectively as possible within existing legal frameworks. The other, implemented by the IUCN Vietnam, the local branch of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, works to promote the active participation of civil society in environmental governance, monitoring and reporting. It seeks to expand the number and quality of local environmental civil society organizations' by building on IUCN's close relationship with Government. UNDEF Deputy Executive Head Mikiko Sawanishi (fifth from right, second row) visited both projects in July 2012.

PROMOTING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN KAMCHATKA



UNDEF Deputy Head Annika Savill visited a project in Kamchatka Territory, Russian Federation, in May 2012 to support democratic participation of indigenous peoples. The visit included a round table with representatives of local government and the private sector to promote best practices of cooperation between indigenous communities and business. The project, implemented by the Centre for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North, aims to create better-functioning legal relationships between indigenous

peoples, business and the state through the elaboration of draft legislation, a code of conduct and a manual, while informing indigenous peoples of their civic rights and guiding them through the process of democratic decision-making. With vast natural resources and a thriving extractive industry, Russia's northern regions are also home to vast numbers of indigenous peoples striving to maintain their livelihoods and traditional way of life.



*I draw,
therefore I am*

"Draw Me Democracy" is a global project funded by UNDEF to enable young artists, designers and communication professionals to take an active role in debates on democracy and human rights. It focuses on raising awareness among young designers and artists, and using their creativity in advancing democracy, promoting social networking, building north-south and south-south bridges.

During the first half of 2012, the project held workshops free of charge in Bolivia, Botswana, Colombia, Ecuador, Greece, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Tunisia and Ukraine, covered design, social communication and advocacy. The initiative is implemented by Poster for Tomorrow.



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Bringing Youth INTO THE Political Agenda AHEAD OF GHANA'S ELECTIONS



In Ghana, UNDEF funds a project to develop a long-term mechanism for youth to articulate their issues and perspectives, and ultimately participate in governance and democratic development in the country. The initiative works to create a coalition to serve as an umbrella organization through which young people mobilize and coordinate policy input. This will serve as a platform to mobilize youth voices into the development of a youth manifesto as a basis for mainstreaming youth into the political agenda of contesting parties in the 2012 elections. In the long term, the coalition will serve as a national mechanism for critical analysis of youth issues and rallying the voices of youth into decision-making processes at national and local levels. The project is implemented by Youth Empowerment Synergy YES-Ghana.



FOR WOMEN IN NIGERIA'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES



UNDEF funds a project to increased involvement of women in Nigeria's governance and democratic processes. A national network of women advocates from three generations lead a dialogue on new strategies for affirmative action and a new work plan for women's empowerment. Community-based women's organizations are trained to mobilize women across generations to join political parties and contest elections in a number of states across Nigeria. In the longer term, this project will contribute to increasing the proportion of women elected to political office. The project is implemented by the Centre for Human Development.

Nigeria's Minister for Women addresses project conference, page 6

POUR LES ÉLECTIONS PACIFIQUES AU BURUNDI

Au Burundi, le FNUD finance un projet visant l'éducation aux principes démocratiques et devant contribuer à un déroulement pacifiques des élections. Mis en place par l'Association des Juristes Catholiques du Burundi, le projet a pour but de mettre de l'avant des programmes électoraux qui tiennent compte des préoccupations de la population de façon à rompre avec une tendance où les élections sont basées sur l'appartenance à un groupe ethnique ou à une région, ce qui engendrent les conflits post-électoraux.

Le projet travaille sur l'appui aux services juridiques et judiciaires et à travers des ateliers de formations et de réflexion. Cette approche renforce ainsi la capacité des leaders locaux et des couches de la population vulnérables sur le plan démocratique, aide à prévenir les conflits entre adversaires politiques et permet d'introduire la redevabilité dans l'élaboration et l'exécution des programmes politiques.



WORTH READING



‘EUROPEAN ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY SHOULD BUILD ON UNDEF’S ROLE’

The European think tank **FRIDE** says the EU’s proposed new European Endowment for Democracy should draw on UNDEF’s example: “It is widely acknowledged that in the future effective democracy support must be carried out by a broader range of partners beyond traditional US and European funders. Again, despite a rhetorical commitment to multilateralise democracy support, in practice little has been done to build partnerships with non-Western ‘emerging’ democracies. The EED should make this a distinctive part of its project profile. ***This could build usefully on the kind of coordinating and bridge-building role played by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) within the UN system.***”

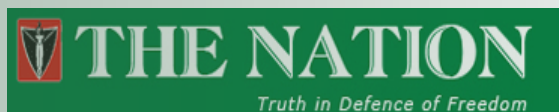
‘SCALE UP UNDEF MODEL IN STRENGTHENING GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS’

The Council on Foreign Relations recommends in “Options for Strengthening the Global Human Rights Regime: Nongovernmental and civil society organizations committed to liberal values must be further empowered as agents to implement human rights. Many leading liberal powers -- Mexico, Japan, and India -- do not fully embrace and trust NGOs as partners to governments. The United States should encourage other leading liberal powers to fund and rely on NGOs as partners where applicable, both within their own territory and internationally. The United States should also help IGOs find inventive ways to sidestep member state politics to empower NGOs. ***A model to scale up and replicate is the UN Democracy Fund, which funds responsible and reliable civil society organizations to advance a wide array of political, civil, economic, and women’s rights.***”

COUNCIL *on*
FOREIGN
RELATIONS

NIGERIA’S MINISTER FOR WOMEN ADDRESSES UNDEF-FUNDED CONFERENCE

Nigeria’s Minister for Women and Social Development, Hajiya Zainab Maina, **spoke** at the UNDEF-funded 2012 Inter-Generational Dialogue on Women in Nigeria, calling for strategies that would politically empower women and establish a framework for gender responsiveness in all public and private sector policies and programmes. She said that so far, women’s participation in politics and decision-making had been dismal because of a number of factors undermining their role.



WORLD MOVEMENT *for* DEMOCRACY
Confronting the Challenges to Democracy in the 21st Century

An important new resource can be found in “Defending Civil Society,” which maps out restrictions imposed on civil society organizations around the world, and provides tips, tools, and strategies for organizations and activists to best participate in the NGO law reform process. The guide is a joint project by the World Movement for Democracy and the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law.

