

UNDEF's New Round of Projects Boosts the **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

As the world's Governments embark on ambitious national plans to implement the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, the role of civil society is crucial. A unifying theme for UNDEF's selection of projects for Round 10 is supporting the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

A key role of civil society is often holding governments to account – be it for the delivery of particular services or for protecting fundamental human rights. Many of UNDEF's projects are specifically focused on increasing transparency and participation through strengthening the relationship between government and civil society organizations.

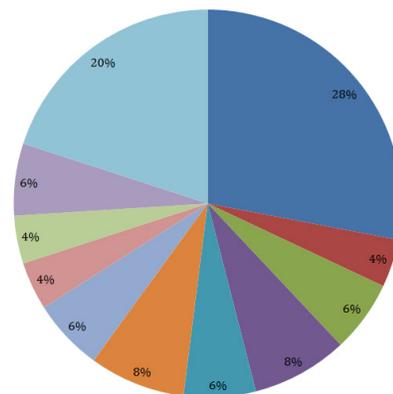
Civil society is also there to stand up for the weak and the marginalized. The agenda must reach those who are rarely seen or heard, who we still need to seek out, who have no voice or group to speak on their behalf.

Each of the Sustainable Development Goals on its own is quite simple, reflecting fundamental desires shared by people everywhere. Yet together, the 17 Goals reflect the tapestry of challenges, choices and opportunities that people encounter in their everyday lives; delivering a better tomorrow will require a transformation of how we work to reflect this reality. We need integrated responses to interconnected challenges. Although Sustainable Development Goal 16 addresses democratic processes directly by calling for inclusive and participatory societies and institutions, the Goal is both an end in itself and a crucial part of delivering sustainable development in all countries.

By the same token, each UNDEF projects cut across many of the Goals, demonstrating the interconnectedness of the 2030 agenda and the role of civil society. For example, a short-listed Round 10 project training local communities on advocating for renewable energy, not only addresses Goal 13 on climate action, it also supports marginalized communities having a voice on issues that are important for their future security - Goal 16. Many of the short listed projects address youth inclusion, preventing extremism, and minorities with a focus education, opportunity and equality -- Goals 4, 5 and 10. This, in turn, is also linked to Goal 16, peace, justice and strong institutions, which requires the rule of law and freedom of expression, as demonstrated in a proposed project training journalists on human rights in a protracted conflict situation. Health and well-being are dependent on sustainable cities and communities. A short-listed project helping women advocate for safe sanitation enhances health, decreases women's vulnerability and leads to a more sustainable community -- Goals 3, 5, 6 and 11.

The chart illustrates the short-listed Round 10 projects by thematic area and geography.

UNDEF Round 10 Projects by SDG Area



- Youth/Inclusion/Preventing Extremism
- Gender Equality
- Sustainable Communities
- Rule of Law/Access to Justice
- Minorities
- Migrants, Refugees
- Media, Freedom of Expression
- Health and Well-being
- Decent Work
- Climate and Environment
- Transparency/Accountability/Participatory Rights

UNDEF Round 10 Projects by SDG Area and Country

Youth/Inclusion/Preventing Extremism	Algeria, Arab Region, Bosnia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, El Salvador, Honduras, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kosovo, Lebanon, Pakistan, Tunisia, Yemen
Gender Equality	Colombia, Egypt,
Sustainable Communities	Brazil, Palestine, Ukraine
Rule of law/Access to Justice	Belarus, Moldova, Zimbabwe
Minorities	Malaysia, Myanmar, Niger
Migrants, Refugees	China, Iraq, Jordan
Media, Freedom of Expression	Afghanistan, Arab Region, Gambia
Health and Well being	Global project, India
Decent Work	Uganda, Ukraine
Climate and Environment	Belarus, Cambodia, Philippines
Transparency/Accountability/Participatory Rights	Armenia, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Paraguay, Sri Lanka, Tunisia



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Communication Tools for Better Services: Using the Media in Kyrgyzstan

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



In Kyrgyzstan, media outlets seldom cover stories in rural villages due to the high cost of sending correspondents to such remote areas. This deficit of media coverage translates into a lack of an effective communication channel within the rural areas, where more than 60% of the Kyrgyz people live.

Despite the remoteness of these rural villages however, two major mobile carriers in Kyrgyzstan provide 98 percent coverage across the country with a high speed 3G network. The

UNDEF funded project, “Community Media for Democracy,” implemented by **Kloop Media Public Foundation**, uses this resource to provide the rural population of Kyrgyzstan with access to information and representation in the mainstream media.

As part of initiative, young people from 14 rural villages were trained in journalism to strengthen community reporting through social media. As

a result, students from the remote Tasma village in Kyrgyzstan’s Issyk-Kul province used Facebook and Twitter to report on the lack of a proper, safe road to their school. Their articles were subsequently covered by Kyrgyzstan’s mainstream media outlets.

In response to the students’ articles, the Kyrgyz local government paved a direct and safe road to school in Tasma.

The publications have proved to be important instruments in improving the lives of people in rural Kyrgyzstan. More broadly however, projects like “Community Media for Democracy” provide the rural population with access to vital information and an effective way to monitor the responsibility and accountability of local authorities.

The project not only allowed young people to better interact with local government, supporting Goal 16, through making the road to the local school more accessible, it also contributed to Goal 4, Quality Education.

Before Media



Local Journalism



After Media Exposure



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Active Citizens: Strengthening Political Party Transparency in Chile

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



An UNDEF project in Chile is using innovative ways to promote transparency in political parties and to encourage citizens to more actively engage with political parties.

As in many countries, there has been a growing disaffection with political institutions in Chile and mistrust of politicians. A major source of distrust is the established political party system which is based around two major political coalitions, making it very difficult for any new political parties and interests to emerge.

The project 'Citizen Participation for Political Party Transparency in Chile,' is being implemented by the **Funcadion, Ciudadano Ingeligente** and is designed to strengthen democratic culture in Chile with representative and legitimate political parties to increase public engagement and civic participation in political parties. The activities are timely, given the upcoming municipal elections in October 2016

At the core of the project is an innovative web-based transparency platform that will allow political parties to upload information about their financial income, expenditures, decision-making processes, official documents. The platform creates a formal and open channel for information requests from civil society promoting transparency and participation.

The platform was launched in June and has so is accessible to both politicians and citizens. The platform simplifies the process for the parties, and authorities



to comply with international standards of transparency and regulations. Following the launch, Funcadion, Ciudadano Ingeligente will be organizing a series of workshops for leaders of political parties.

In a recent press article, the Deputy Director of Funcadion, Ciudadano Ingeligente recognised the role of UNDEF in making the platform possible. "Transparency is an important tool for citizen participation and information must be available in an orderly manner, easily understandable and comparable with other parties in the country. It is a free service funded by the UN Democracy Fund with the sole objective of strengthening the political institutions in Chile."

By encouraging citizen participation the project directly supports the implementation of Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Combating Gender-based Violence with the Support of Men in Afghanistan

5 GENDER EQUALITY



Violence against women is one of the main factors preventing women from participating in the political life of Afghanistan and is a major contributor to gender inequality in Afghan society. Men are the main perpetrators of domestic violence. They therefore have a vital role in stopping violence against women.

An UNDEF project "Engaging Men and Boys in Preventing Violence against Women and Girls in Afghanistan for Building a Democratic

society" managed by the **Welfare and Support Afghan Women Disability Organization**, recognizes the role that male community leaders can play to prevent all kinds of gender based violence including early and forced marriage. The project uses community based approaches to target key male leaders to enlist them in the fight against gender based violence.

As part of the project, a recent workshop in Herat gathered representatives from provincial and local government, civil society and the media to talk about strategies for preventing violence against women.

Participants at the workshop were informed about the high level of violence against women in the province as well as some of the actions already taken to improve the situation. A locally renowned religious leader addressed the meeting and underlined the importance of ending domestic violence against women. Engaging with male community leaders helped to raise awareness of the role they have to play in countering entrenched attitudes that enable violence against women.

This project provides concrete activities that support the Afghan government's implementation of Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals: Gender Equality.



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Water and Sanitation for All: Strengthening the Voice of Civil Society in West Africa

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



A recently completed regional UNDEF project in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo strengthened the voice of civil society actors and enabled their participation in the decision-making processes regarding access to water, hygiene and sanitation.

Access to water and sanitation is not only essential to health and well-being but is also recognized as a human right. In 2010 the United Nations General Assembly adopted

a resolution “recognizing the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights” and yet in sub-Saharan Africa access to safe water and sanitation remains a challenge. In 2015, only 65% of the population had access to adequate sanitation.

The project was the work of the **Permanent NGO Secretariat**, a non-governmental organization based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, together with NGO platforms and groups in seven other West and Central African countries. The project conducted a range of activities to support civil society such as workshops and training about water, hygiene and sanitation as a human right. The Permanent NGO Secretariat used some innovative techniques to raise awareness including using radio and media.

The project clearly had some success in raising awareness and changing the attitudes of policy makers. In November 2015, the government of Burkina Faso recognized access to water as a right. In a recent evaluation, the lobbying

activities of the Permanent NGO Secretariat through the project were judged to have helped to change attitudes through the meetings with decision makers and politicians, contributing to wider awareness of the importance of water, hygiene and sanitation. In this way, the project not only provided opportunities for strengthened interaction with government – in support of SDG 16, the project also promoted the implementation of Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation.



A Mobile Platform for Democracy in Underprivileged and Remote Areas in India

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



UNDEF-funded project: Swara: A community Platform for Sharing Information in India completed its work the end of 2015. The project's objective was to promote democratic processes and human rights through the use of media and the freedom of information, including by launching a platform for communities to share audio information using mobile phones and the internet.

The initiative worked to develop an information network and create open channels of communication that are accessible to the poor, including disenfranchised indigenous communities of central India; democratize media and generate a platform to share concerns and opinions; provide real grassroots feedback to administration; and engage mainstream society to act on issues relevant to indigenous rural communities. Through providing opportunities for minorities and indigenous communities to access services, the project contributed to the implementation of Goal 10 of the SDGs, Reduced Inequalities.

The project enabled one community to obtain a ration card, a registration card, and a water card to all by being able to communicate more effectively with government officials. Another community received a school and will

soon benefit from a clinic. UNDEF's Deputy Head for Programmes, Mikiko Sawanishi, visited Andhra Pradesh in July 2016 to meet with the project's implementing agency, **Society for Integrated Tribal and Rural Action**, Sitara.



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Promoting Youth Participation in Democratic Processes in Pakistan

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



At a recent workshop on the right to information and consumer rights in Faisalbad, Pakistan, young men and women from the Punjab region learnt about the history and application of the right to information law in Pakistan. They also took part in simulation exercises learning how to apply the application of the consumer rights and right to information laws to their own situation, based on recent complaints or grievances they had.

The workshop was one initiative taking place as part of an ongoing project “Using web and social media to strengthen local democratic discourse in Pakistan” The objective of the project is to build capacity of young citizens so that they understand fundamental constitutional rights as well as governance structure and political system of Pakistan.

Pakistan has a significant youth population which is highly active on social media. The project aims to use social media as a means of increasing political discourse on local development and governance. In building knowledge and understanding of political processes among young people, the project

supports Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

After the hands-on training session, the participants were keen to exercise the rights they had learned about through launching formal applications on the right to information and consumer rights.

More information on the Pujab Lok Sujag Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/punjabloksujag/>.



Empowering and Creating an Educational Framework for People with Intellectual Disorders in Belarus

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Adults with learning disabilities are often excluded from economic and political opportunities and they face considerable barriers to participation in public life.

An UNDEF project in Belarus, implemented by the International Public Association “Voice of Heart”, worked with both government and educational institutions to build the capacity of adults with learning disabilities so they could meaningfully participate in society and achieve their fundamental human rights.

The project focused on advocating for the rights of adults with learning disabilities with policy makers and identifying legislation that needed to be changed in order to move from a system of care homes – where their educational needs were not met – to having the tools to live in “open society”, fully participating as equal citizens.

The interim results of the ongoing project developed into 46 agreements of cooperation being signed between IPA “Voice of Heart” and each psycho-neurological social home that they worked with. The project has had a positive impact on raising awareness of the issue in Belarus as well as in producing curricula and educational resources directly addressing the health needs of this vulnerable and marginalized group.

Set to end in 30 June, 2017, the project between UNDEF and IPA “Voice of Heart” has concretely contributed to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 3, Good Health and Well-Being, as well as Goal 4, Quality Education and Goal 10, Reducing Inequalities.



NEWS FROM UNDEF

UNDEF Celebrates Day of Democracy in New York and Athens

To mark the International Day of Democracy on 15 September, UNDEF co-organized two events – one at United Nations Headquarters in New York and the other in Athens, the birthplace of democracy. The New York event was on the theme of “Democracy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, one year after all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals -- a plan for achieving a better future for all, laying out a path over 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet.



At the heart of the Agenda are the Sustainable Development Goals, which call for mobilizing efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his [message](#) on the day: “Democratic principles run through the Agenda like a golden thread, from

universal access to public goods, health care and education, as well as safe places to live and decent work opportunities for all. Goal 16 addresses democracy directly: it calls for inclusive societies and accountable institutions... On this International Day of Democracy, let us rededicate ourselves to democracy and dignity for all.” The New York event featured remarks by Under-Secretary-General David Nabarro, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Ms. Paddy Torsney, Permanent Observer to the United Nations of the Inter-Parliamentary Union; and Mr. Diego Firpo, Chief Executive Officer, TECHO.



The [Athens Democracy Forum](#) was held for the fourth year by The International New York Times in cooperation with UNDEF and Athens City Hall. This year’s programme, expanded to six days, included discussions at the Acropolis Museum, the Zappeion, the Megaron Conference Centre, Impact Hub Athens, Costa Navarino and the Ancient Agora of Athens – the very birthplace of democracy. Speakers included Prokopios Pavlopoulos, President of Greece; Giorgis Kaminis, Mayor of Athens; Christiane Amanpour; Geoffrey Robertson QC; Mario Monti, former Prime Minister of Italy; Paul Krugman and Roger Cohen of the New York Times; Stephen Dunbar-Johnson, President, International The New York Times; European Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos; Human Rights Watch Executive Director Kenneth Roth; and Annika Savill, Executive Head of the UN Democracy Fund, who spoke in the Stoa of Attalos of the shrinking space for civil society in remarks linked [here](#). Themes during the Forum included authoritarian regimes; migration; democracy and religion; democracy and and business. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a [video message](#) of support to the Forum: “I send warm wishes to the Athens Democracy Forum. Thank you for coming together in the birthplace of democracy to observe this International Day, in cooperation with the United Nations Democracy Fund. In too many places, democracy is under assault... This requires us to deploy all the fundamental components of democracy -- rule of law, accountable institutions, independent media, a strong civil society and the freedoms of expression and assembly. I thank all of you for using your creativity and influence as you discuss how to turn the democratic tide.” As part of the Athens Democracy Forum, the International New York Times and UNDEF also hosted a [lunch at the Academy of Athens](#) for public participation in and awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals. Seventeen discussion tables -- one for each Goal -- discussed priorities and arrived at cross-cutting [recommendations](#).

