

**INSIDE UNDEF**

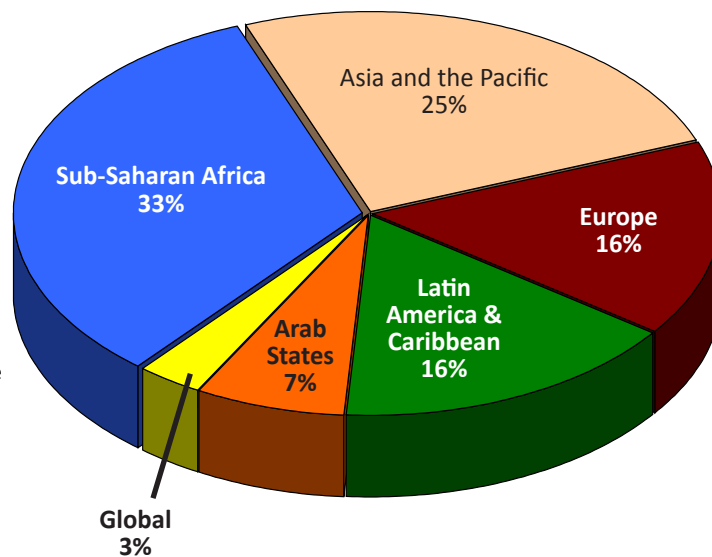
# More than 3,700 proposals Compete for UNDEF grants

UNDEF received a record high of more than 3,700 applications for its Fifth Round of Funding by the deadline of New Year's Eve 2010 - almost twice as many as the average in previous years. The project proposals originated from organizations in 149 countries, the vast majority local NGOs in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

The applications are now being assessed by independent consultants, a process in which each proposal will be judged on its inherent quality and scored against 10 set criteria, as follows:

- 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

Because of the unprecedented number of applications, the assessment process will be even more rigorous and competitive than in previous years. In the following stage, a long short-list will be reviewed by the UNDEF Programme Consultative Group -- comprising the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Development Programme, the UN Development Fund for Women and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime -- and the UNDEF Advisory Board.



Only those who advance to the short list will be contacted by UNDEF. This is expected to be in mid-2011, at which stage, short-listed applicants will be required to compose a draft project document to be negotiated with UNDEF -- the final stage of the selection process.

In its first four Rounds of Funding, UNDEF supported 344 projects around the world - 269 projects in 109 countries, 55 regional projects covering a further 40 countries, and 20 global projects. They all reflect a focus on strengthening the voice of civil society, ranging from exchanging electoral best practices to empowering marginalized groups and advancing the rule of law.

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**INSIDE UNDEF**

3,700 compete for UNDEF grants... 1

**NEWS FROM THE FIELD**

Women in Tunisia..... 2  
 Youth in Lebanon..... 2  
 Legal search in Arabic..... 2  
 Minorities in Ethiopia ..... 3  
 Jeunes au Burkina Faso ..... 3  
 Election effort in Liberia ..... 3  
 Guatemala state of siege.....4  
 Colombian women..... 4

**WORTH READING**

Liberia all-women radio.....5  
 Women in Jamaica ..... 5  
 Ghana parliamentarians ..... 5  
 Roma housing..... 6  
 Global Governance..... 6  
 Handbook on voters' lists ..... 6  
 Voter Registration in Africa..... 6



## PUTTING TUNISIA'S WOMEN IN THE LEAD



The political participation of women will be critical in building the way forward in Tunisia following the Jasmine Revolution. UNDEF funds a new initiative to encourage women to take on political leadership roles and to advance equal representation. It works to identify future women leaders and give them visibility; develop women role models for succeeding generations; and train women media professionals in the concept of equal representation. Implemented by the Tunis-based independent Center for Arab Women Training and Research, the initiative also covers Tunisia's neighbours Algeria and Morocco. All three countries are likely to have a key impact on how democracy develops in the Arab world.

## Engaging **youth** for a **stronger Lebanon**

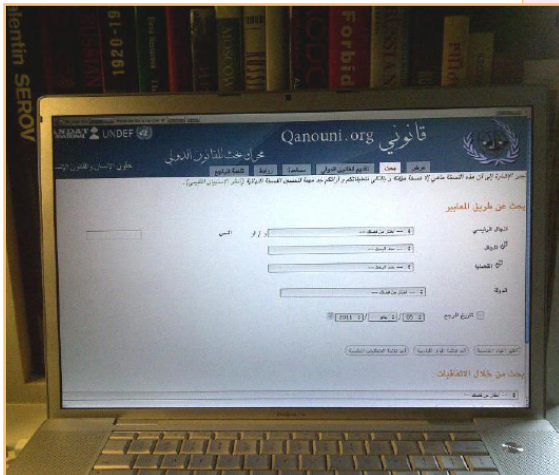
Lebanon is at a critical junction in its efforts to build governance, the rule of law and participatory democracy. Young people are disillusioned, dialogue between communities absent. To prepare youth to play a fuller part, UNDEF funds a project engaging them in local governance and community life in South Lebanon, Mount Lebanon and Bekaa Valley.

Called 'Citizenship Is My Right,' the project has held workshops in Nabatieh, Adloun, Joun, Jyyeh and Deir El Ghazal. The overall goal is to build the skills required to create youth municipal councils and projects of collective interest. The project is implemented by Mouvement social, a secular association working for development throughout Lebanon since 1961.



## Everyman's legal search engine in **Arabic**

An UNDEF-funded initiative has developed a widely sought after Arabic-language legal search engine on human rights and international law. The engine, [www.qanouni.org](http://www.qanouni.org), makes it possible for even those without legal training to gain easy and systematic access to human rights instruments by searching by theme, date or country. It includes more than 250 multilateral conventions and over 170 thematic keywords. The project, implemented by Mandat International, presented its work during a side session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. An equivalent engine is accessible in English, French, and Spanish at [www.whatconvention.org](http://www.whatconvention.org).



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

# Empowering minorities through schools in Ethiopia



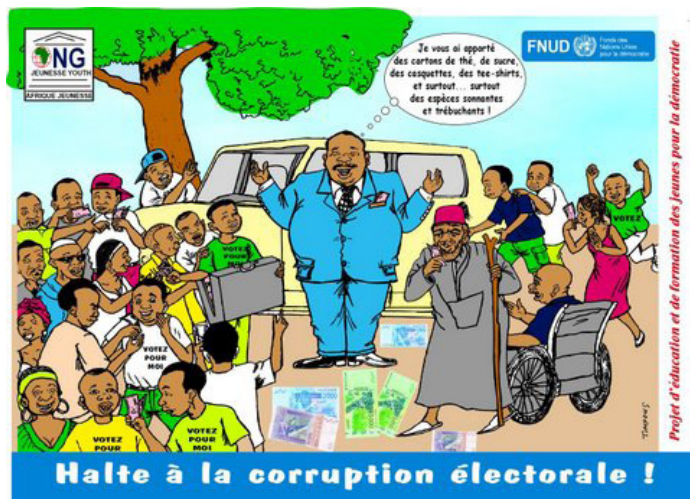
In Ethiopia, UNDEF funds an initiative to integrate marginalized minorities, including through schools. The Ethnic minorities in southwest Ethiopia known as “menja” are scattered geographically, making them more vulnerable to social exclusion. Thanks to the project, Menja children in Telo District now interact fully with others, where previously they were often not permitted to share school materials, benches or play space. Menja children have also been appointed class monitors and student police, responsible for conflict resolution in the school compound.

UNDEF IN AFRICA

# MASSIVE CITIZENS' ELECTION EFFORT IN LIBERIA



Les jeunes représentent plus de la moitié de la population du Burkina Faso et sont reconnus comme étant une force de développement. Pourtant, leur participation aux processus électoraux est faible et leur désintérêt grandissant quant aux affaires publiques. Initié par l'ONG Afrique Jeunesse, un projet d'éducation et de formation des jeunes pour la démocratie profite du fait que les années 2010-2011 sont des années d'élections présidentielles, municipales, et législatives. Des ateliers régionaux sont organisés visant à renforcer les connaissances des jeunes leaders d'associations sur les règles et principes démocratiques en lien avec les processus électoraux. Affiches et bulletins sont distribués via les réseaux de correspondants régionaux d'Afrique Jeunesse dans les centres de lecture, les bibliothèques municipales, les lycées. Un théâtre forum dans les langues principales au Burkina permettra aussi de toucher les jeunes ruraux.



## Pour la participation des jeunes à la démocratie au Burkina Faso

This year is a watershed for Liberia's democratic development, with both presidential elections and a constitutional referendum scheduled for October. UNDEF funds an initiative to work on several fronts; massive civic and voters' education; training and deploying grassroot election monitors and volunteers to provide early information on fraud and conflict, handle citizens' complaints, and address concerns of rural women and youth; building capacity of rural women and youth to stand for elections and effectively participate in local and national politics and government; bringing together provincial networks into one coordinating national alliance. The project is implemented by VOSIED-Africa.



Project for  
**young Guatemalans**  
 continues  
 despite **state** of **siege**

An UNDEF-funded initiative continues to operate in the northern Guatemala province of Alta Verapaz, even after the government declared a state of siege there in December 2010 in response to escalating drug-related violence. The project works to offer alternatives to young people in the face of growing domination by drug gangs in the province. The initiative, implemented by the Asociación de Amigos del Desarrollo y la Paz, trains young people in community leadership, management skills, rule of law, local governance, and effective dialogue. It focuses on marginalized groups aged between 16 and 28.



In Colombia, UNDEF supports an initiative for women's participation in democracy as a means to development and peace. Implemented by Corporación Centro de Apoyo Popular, the project works in Soacha, south of Bogotá, to engage women in formulating public policy at the municipal level - and thus helps address the area's complex social and humanitarian problems connected with Colombia's armed conflict. The impoverished community of Soacha was at the centre of a deep nation-wide controversy over alleged extrajudicial executions in 2008.

**Colombian women**  
 work together in  
**Soacha for peace** and  
**development**



WORTH READING

# More headlines for UNDEF-funded Liberia all-women radio station

The new Liberia Women Democracy Radio, funded by UNDEF, was the feature of the day in the global news site *Womens eNews*. The article highlights the work of the radio station to train female journalists in a country where 14 years of civil war have left women’s literacy levels lagging far behind.



Credit: Juhie Bhatia

The *Jamaica Observer* paid end-of-year tribute to inner-city women who became agents of change through UNDEF-funded leadership training.

**End-of-year tribute to Jamaican women** after UNDEF-funded training



## GHANA PRESS HIGHLIGHTS DEBATE ON DEADBEAT MPs AT UNDEF-BACKED FORUM



Participants in an UNDEF-funded forum on Ghana’s Constitutional Review Process stressed the need for mechanisms to sanction non-performing parliamentarians. Leading Ghanaian newspapers gave it wide coverage.

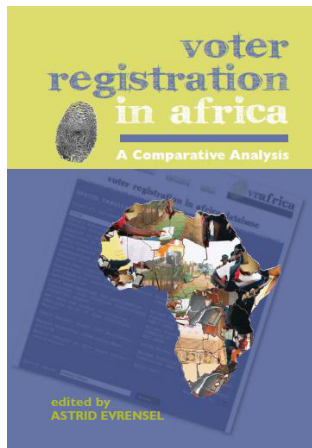


WORTH READING



## News reports focus on UNDEF-funded study of Roma housing plight

A ground-breaking UNDEF-funded [study](#) documenting the acutely troubling housing situation of Roma in seven central European countries has received wide [media coverage](#). The study, covering Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovakia, was undertaken by the European Roma Rights Centre.

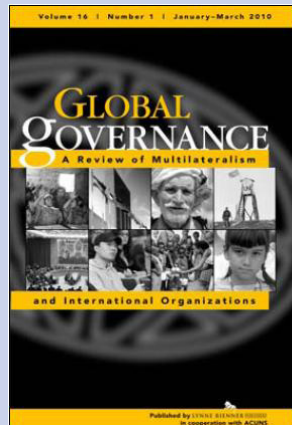


An UNDEF-funded project has produced *Voter Registration in Africa: A Comparative Analysis*. The project aims to develop and promote sustainable and cost-effective models of voter registration, particularly in Africa's least developed and post-conflict countries. It also includes a new, user-friendly [database](#) offering free access to more than 1,000 voter registration resources in English, French and Portuguese.

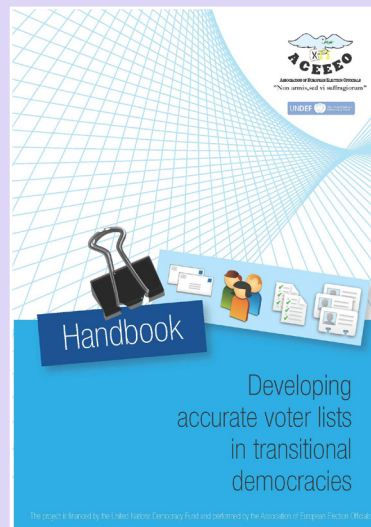
## UNDEF FUNDS NEW TOOLS FOR IMPROVING VOTER REGISTRATION IN AFRICA

## Global Governance journal features role of UNDEF

The October 2010 issue of *Global Governance: A Review of Multilateralism and International Organizations* features an article by UNDEF Executive Head Roland Rich on the unique place of the United Nations Democracy Fund in strengthening civil society around the world.



## UNDEF funds handbook on voters' lists in transitional democracies



An UNDEF-funded project has launched a guide to developing accurate [voter lists](#) in transitional democracies. The handbook is based on a comparative analysis of transitional countries in Europe, including Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, and Moldova. It covers the full range of voter registration issues, from general requirements and legal frameworks to administrative and technical aspects, best practices and practical recommendations. The guide was compiled by the Budapest-based Association of European Election Officials, which plans to form a mobile group of experts providing practical, concrete support to countries in need through short-term technical missions.