Call to civil society organizations to apply for funding


UNDEF supports projects that strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights, and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. The large majority of UNDEF funds go to local civil society organizations -- both in the transition and consolidation phases of democratization. In this way, UNDEF plays a novel and distinct role in complementing the UN’s other work -- the work with Governments -- to strengthen democratic governance around the world.

This is the Tenth Round to be launched by UNDEF, which provides grants of up to US$300,000 per project. UNDEF has supported more than 600 projects in over 100 countries at a total amount of over US$160 million. Proposals are subject to a highly rigorous and competitive selection process, with fewer than two per cent chosen for funding. Projects are two years long and fall under one or more of six main areas:

- Community activism
- Rule of law and human rights
- Women’s empowerment
- Youth engagement
- Strengthening civil society capacity for interaction with Government
- Media and freedom of information
- Tools for knowledge