

UNDEF's annual call for project proposals is open from 15 December 2018 to 18 January 2019, after receiving the green light from the UNDEF Advisory Board on 13 November 2018. Project proposals may be submitted on-line only in English or French, the two working languages of the UN, at [www.un.org/democracyfund](http://www.un.org/democracyfund). Applicants can find guidelines, a sample form and lessons learned [here](#).

This is the Thirteenth Round to be launched by UNDEF, which provides grants of up to US\$300,000 per project. In the past 12 years, UNDEF has supported over 780 projects in over 120 countries at a total amount of almost US\$190 million. All projects are two years long. UNDEF invites project proposals covering one or more of eight main areas:

- Gender equality
- Community activism
- Rule of law and human rights
- Youth engagement
- Strengthening civil society interaction with Government
- Media and freedom of information
- Tools for knowledge
- Electoral processes



The following advice to applicants for UNDEF grants is based on the selection of proposals in previous UNDEF Rounds. It provides useful pointers for you to bear in mind as you prepare your proposal.

### Presentation

The higher the quality of the presentation, the higher your application will score. You can get an idea of what is required by viewing [project proposal guidelines](#). Complete all relevant information, but do not exceed the character limits in the proposal form. Ensure that the information is accurate. Write in plain English or French, avoiding jargon where possible. Use correct acronyms and website addresses. Write succinct sentences and avoid repetition.

### Clarity

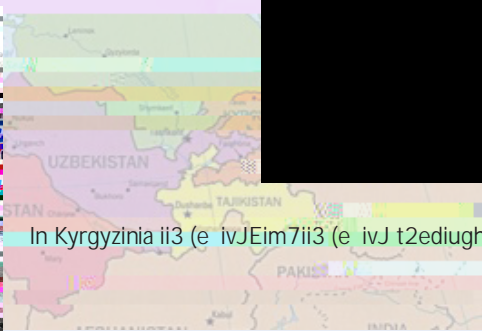
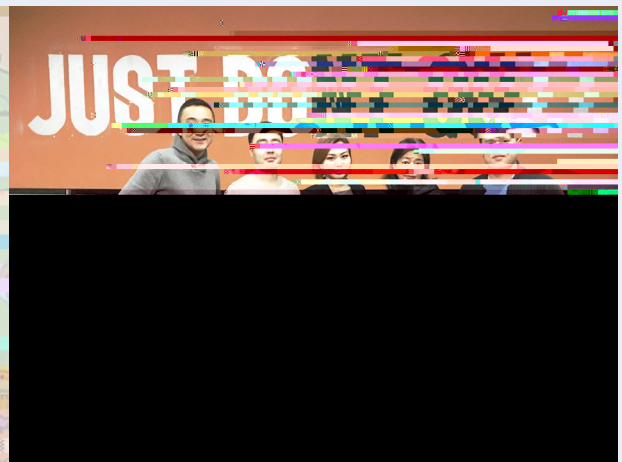
Clarity is the key to a successful proposal. You should have a clear idea about what you want to achieve and a clear strategy for how to achieve it. You need to spell out the link between your overall objective and your expected outcomes -- how these will translate your vision into reality. Lack of clarity cannot be disguised by the use of “buzz” words or other formulaic constructions; a successful design requires a logic that can be followed step by step. Brainstorm the ideas thoroughly before writing them down, but equally, agree on what specific steps are needed to make them happen, and in what sequence. Play the “devil’s advocate” and criticise the initial ideas until you have achieved a logical design.

### Scoring and criteria

In UNDEF’s initial assessment of proposals, each project proposal is scored against 10 criteria. Since an average two per cent of proposals make it to the short-list, you need to score well on all the criteria to advance to the next stage. Make sure you demonstrate that your proposal satisfies each one:

1. The project promotes the objectives of UNDEF
- 2.

## Reintegrating young offenders in Kazakhstan; Gender justice through community media in



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## Working for a more accountable and transparent defence sector in Mali

