



Dear friends of the UN Democracy Fund,

Welcome to UNDEF Update No.2. This is peak
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selection from more than 2,100 project applica



INSIDE UNDEF

Let's democratize the International Day of Democracy



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DQG WR OLVWHQ WR YRLFHV IURP WKH ¿HOG UNDEF wants to In 2009, there will again be many events orga showcase these nized by intergovernmental and representative IDD activities be bodies to celebrate IDD. UNDEF urges civil ing held by civil society organizations to join the party and orga society around the nize their own activities on this auspicious day, world. We ask you

FRPSOHPHQWLQJ RI¿FLDO [Web Site](#) & [Web Page](#) About you [Web Site](#) & [Web Page](#) H seminars or workshops -- for example, analyzake some interesting photos and email them to (IDD) will be held on 15 September. It is ob ing the Universal Declaration of Democracyus at democracyfund@un.org soon after your served annually on that date following its desigand asking how well it is implemented in each event takes place, and we will display them on a QDWLRQ E\ *HQHUDO \$VVHPERXQWUROXMKLLEQLRQLR Le [Special Page](#) on our website. This way, you will WR FRPPHPRUDWH UN-K [Drawing & Painting Competitions](#); book readbe able to share your activity with the rest of [Universal Declaration on Democracy](#) by the Inter- ings or reviews; or simply informal gatheringsthe world and also learn about what others have 3DUOLDPHQWDU\ 8QLRQ LQ for discussions. Whatever the type of event, itone. So get involved and be creative!

Dr. Ashraf Ghani, who serves in an individual capacity on the UNDEF Advisory Board for 2009, brings to it unique perspective and experience. A former Finance

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Lessons learned from applications in the Third Round

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Dear civil society organization applicants,

It might be helpful for us to provide some feedback from the Third Round

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tions in the Third Round of funding. The independent assessors that scored
each application have provided the following feedback.

High "Pass Mark"

Overall, the quality of the applications was higher than in the second round
but the "pass mark" was also higher. In the Second Round it was neces

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Round two additional criteria were added, bringing the total to 50, and it
was necessary to score at

least 40 (the 80 per cent

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NEWS FROM THE FIELD

In the Sindhi Districts of Thatta, Tando Mohd Khan and Badin, women are registered voters. In the past two election rounds -- capacity through meetings and district, provincial and national training to empower women to -- women's voter turnout was low 25 per cent. And while the

Constitution of Pakistan spells out their freedom to vote, women are often forced to cast their ballot for the candidate chosen by their father, husband or brother. This is why the Aasthan Latif Welfare Society launched its UNDEF-backed initiative "Democracy for Women's Rights". The project aims to educate rural women about their basic constitutional rights, the role and value of democracy, and the power of their votes. The Society's team of volunteers works to build awareness among women in rural communities about their fundamental constitutional rights; mobilize and

Given the traditional and cultural background of these districts, this mission can be achieved only by also building awareness, motivation and mobilization among men. Thus, the Society organizes separate meetings for men and women. By mid-March 2009, PRUH WKDQ VXFK PH EHHQ FRQGXFWHG LQ P villages, complemented by a me

Airtime for accountability in Afghanistan

Afghanistan is at a historic crossroads. There is a crucial and urgent need to build better understanding among citizens about how to engage effectively with elected leaders and demand accountability, transparency and government

The UNDEF-backed initiative AIRTIME - Accountable Institutions through Radio Transparency Initiatives & Moderated Events - works to answer this need. It uses a three-pronged strategy, a

comprehensive, dynamic and engaging radio series, roundtable discussions and community forums, to motivate and empower citizens to question their leaders. In this way, it seeks to strengthen accountability mechanisms, to be responsive to citizen demands, and increase access to information for communities across Afghanistan. The project is run by Equal Access International, which works to empower under-served communities across the developing world through life-changing information and education.



WORTH READING

Opening doors for African democracy

The Institute for Democracy in South Africa has issued a landmark publication, with UNDEF support, entitled [Democracy in Africa: Promoting the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance](#) it spells out that

“the pressure for the recognition of human rights in Africa is far greater than it has ever been and the prospects for democratic breakthroughs are greater than ever”.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies, in its recent publication [Democracy in](#)
