

UNDEF Update - No. 2, 2009

Dear friends of the UN Democracy Fund,

Welcome to UNDEF Update No.2. This is peak V H D V R Q I R U 8 1 $^{\circ}$ () D V Z H D S S U R D F K W K H $_{\circ}$ Q D O selection from more than 2,100 project applica

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Let's democratize the International Day of Democracy



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In 2009, there will again be many events erga nized by intergovernmental and representative bodies to celebrate IDD. UNDEF urges civil society organizations to join the party and erga nize their own activities on this auspicious day,

UNDEF wants to showcase these IDD activities be ing held by civil society around the world. We ask you

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3 D U O L D P H Q W D U \ 8 Q L R Q L Q for discussions. Whatever the type of event, idone. 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 WR KHOS DSSOLFDQWV LQ IXWXUH IXQG-LQJ URXQGV 81'() UHFHLYHG DSSOLFD 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 VDU\ WR VFRUH DW OHDVW RXW RI WKHSHU FHQW SRLQW)RU WKH 7KLUG 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, PRWLYDWH ZRPHQ LQ IHZHU WKDQ low 25 per cent. And while the their rights. Constitution of Pakistan spells Given the traditional and cultural

Tando Mohd Khan and Badin, to participate in political life for SHU threlind Qwww whealtand QanLoJdue Fee Oorbit women are registered voters. Inment; and organize and build the past two election rounds -- capacity through meetings and district, provincial and national training to empower women to -- women's voter turnout was be take collective efforts to protect

> background of these districts, this mission can be achieved only by also building awareness, moti vation and mobilization among men. Thus, the Society organizes separate meetings for men and women. By mid-March 2009, PRUH WKDQ VXFK PH

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out their freedom to vote, women are often forced to cast their ballot villages, complemented by a me for the candidate chosen by their father, husband or brother.

This is why the Aasthan Latif Welfare Society launched its UNDEF-backed initiative "De mocracy for Women's Rights". The project aims to educate rural women about their basic constitu tional 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 con stitutional rights; mobilize and

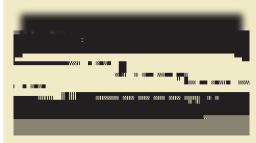
Airtime for accountability in Afghanistan

Afghanistan is at a historic crossroads. There is a crucial and urgent need to build better under standing among citizens about how to engage effectively with elected leaders and demand accountability, transparency and government UHVSRQVLYHQHVV sustained investment in media and civil society institutions.

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The UNDEF-backed initiative AIRTIME - Ac countable Institutions through Radio Transparen cy Initiatives & Moderated Events - works to-an swer this need. It uses a three-pronged strategy, a comprehensive, dynamic and engaging radio series, roundtable discussions and communi ty forums, to motivate and empower citizens to question their leaders. In this way, it seeks to strengthen accountability mechanisms, EXLOG XS WKH FDSDFLW\ RI JF to be responsive to citizen demands, and in crease access to information for communi ties 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 sup port, entitledDemocracy in Africa: Promoting the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governancelt 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 publication contains and international Studies, in its recent publication contains and its recent publication contains and international Studies, in its recent publication contains and its recent publication contains a