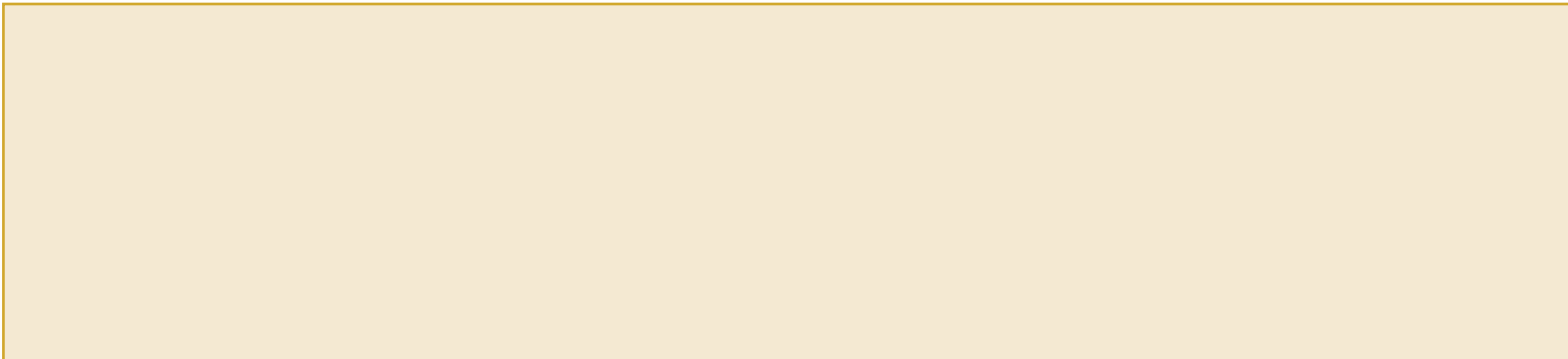


INSIDE UNDEF



UNDEF's Advisory Board met on 30 April 2015 and endorsed a short list of 53 new two-year projects totalling 10 million dollars, with a focus on empowering young people and defending the space of civil society. The list is now submitted to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for their respective mandates. The list is also being reviewed by the Department of Political Affairs, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the UN Development Programme, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and UN Women.

organizations to operate, receive funding from outside, or both. Against this background, UNDEF received 2,331 project proposals for its Ninth Round of Funding, originating from organizations in 143 countries, the vast majority local NGOs in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The short list is the product of a thorough and rigorous process of assessment, quality vetting, due diligence and lessons learned from previous Rounds. A team of seven international assessors -- combining more than 80 years of programme and project experience -- scored each proposal against 10 set criteria and produced a long list of some 300 project proposals. To narrow down the list further, UN Resident Coordinators and Experts of the UNDEF Advisory Board were invited to provide comments, quality vetting, and views on how proposed activities would fit in the overall context of existing UN work in the countries and fields proposed.

The same comments were sought from the UNDEF Programme Consultative Group, making use of the specific expertise of each of its entities: the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the UN Development Programme, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and UN Women.


Breaking down the short list by key activity, 47 per cent of project proposals are youth engagement projects reflecting the fact that today, one person out of five is between the ages of 15 and 24. Never before has the transition from youth to adulthood been so weighed by challenges, yet so blessed by opportunities. Young people have powers to network that would have been unimaginable when the United Nations was founded nearly 70 years ago. They are connecting about issues that matter – from

injustice, discrimination and climate change to human rights and the need for human solidarity. The emphasis also reflects that this year is a turning point for the United Nations, as the international community strives to agree on new sustainable development goals and a new universal and meaningful climate agreement – commitments that those who are young today will have to live with and carry forward.

Once the short list is approved by the UN Secretary-General, the proposal moves into the final stage in the selection process: the

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NEWS FROM THE FIELD



In Madagascar, youth exclusion is common and presents a major blocking factor to the development and social cohesion of the country. This is why [Vatsy lombona ho an'ny Fampandrosoana](#) (VIF) launched a project with UNDEF to strengthen youth's participation in democratic practices in four rural communes of Ankazobe District, in the Central Highlands of Madagascar by establishing a framework for consultation and dialogue conducive to democracy learning and the involvement of young people in local democracy at the communal level.

One of the main activities is the creation of the "Communal Youth Council" (CCJ) , in



