



UNDEF Update – No. 50 AtA1A1B1B1C1C1D1D1E1E1F1F1G1G1H1H1I1I1J1J1K1K1L1L1M1M1N1N1O1O1P1P1Q1Q1R1R1S1S1T1T1U1U1V1V1W1W1X1X1Y1Y1Z1Z1

democracy

Engaging democracy as a means to achieve peace and stability in conflict-affected areas is a key priority for UNDEF. The Fund supports civil society organizations and individuals who are working to promote democratic values and principles in these areas. UNDEF provides technical assistance, training, and financial support to help these groups and individuals build their capacity and reach their goals.

For a full list of UNDEF projects, please visit [www.un.org/undef](#) or contact us at info@undef.org.

United Nations Democracy Fund

As stressed at the high-level panel discussion, the COVID-19 pandemic poses a threat to democracy because the rights of people, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are often violated. For this reason, UNDEF is increasing its focus on supporting civil society organizations and individuals who are working to promote democratic values and principles in these areas.

United Nations Democracy Fund is pleased to announce that it has awarded a grant to support the work of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in the United States. This grant will support NED's efforts to promote democratic values and principles in the United States and to build the capacity of civil society organizations and individuals who are working to promote democratic values and principles in these areas.



An UNDEF project in Gambia facilitated the National Assembly's passing of an Access to Information Bill in July 2021. With this, Gambia becomes the last English-speaking country in West Africa to recognize access to information as a legal right. It marks the first time in Gambia's history that civil society has worked directly with the Government on legislation from conception to enactment, all made possible by UNDEF's support.

Implemented by [The Gambia Press Union](#), the project built a coalition of civil society and media organizations -- the Civil Society Coalition on Freedom of Information -- which engaged with Government and drafted the proposed legislation for the freedom of information bill; created a platform for dialogue with the Ministries of Justice and Information to allow for direct consultations and reach a consensus on the legislation; provided training for journalists on the topic; and conducted advocacy among the general public to build wide support for access to information as a tool to enhance accountability and good governance.

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An UNDEF project in Chile is seizing the historic opportunity of the country's current constitutional process to ensure women's participation and the inclusion of gender content. Implemented by [Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género](#), this nation-wide initiative is working to advance women's understanding of a new constitution's importance to them and their rights; generate debates on key gender issues; and advocate for the inclusion of gender aspects in the drafting process.

On 15 June, the project brought together online over 100 civil society organizations and social leaders as well as 35 constitutional assembly delegates, key actors of the reform process, to discuss and agree on the principal components of a gender-sensitive constitutional agenda. The agenda frames the key demands for the coordinated advocacy efforts of stakeholders towards the inclusion of gender issues in constitutional debates and deliberations.

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An UNDEF project in Palestine is empowering youth to participate in their communities and create a new generation of changemakers and leaders. Implemented by [Zimam](#), the project trains youth to formulate policy challenges and solutions, c.ess. , the prohwellbeen holrstanmderhssetwo-day, thf prtitutiject stane ikshopeba

