

★ THE ★ NEW YEAR ISSUE

For UNDEF’s project organizations, the past year has again been profoundly challenging. They have continued to show exceptional creativity and courage in pivoting their projects to adapt to the impact of the pandemic, despite the slow roll-out of vaccines in most countries, and the devastating economic and social damage wrought by the prolonged

crisis. This New Year Issue is an opportunity to pay tribute to the resilience of our civil society grantees around the mission in late 2021, we look at a range of UNDEF projects in Africa, Latin America, and the Arab States. We enter 2022 with new determination and hope.



Colombia projects strengthen post-conflict justice, rural media, women’s rights

An UNDEF project in Colombia empowers communities impacted by justice, by documenting serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law; Special Jurisdiction for Peace and the Truth Commission; and providing legal assistance to restore the rights of victims of forced displacement and dispossession. Implemented by Corporación Jurídica Yira Castro, the project has led to seven judicial sentences recognizing the fundamental right to land restitution, seven land restitution rulings in individual cases, three protection actions favorable to the victims, and a range of protection

measures for women victims in Magdalena and Cundinamarca.



Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa, FLIP.

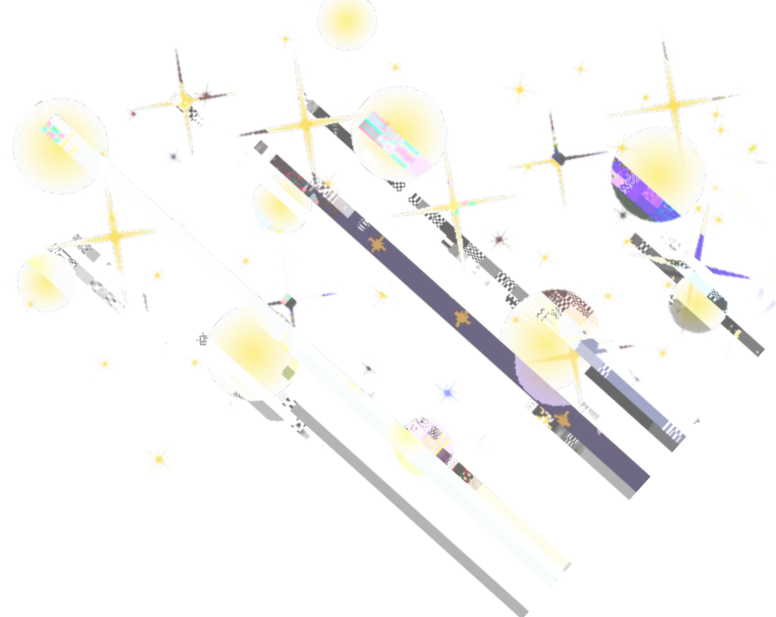
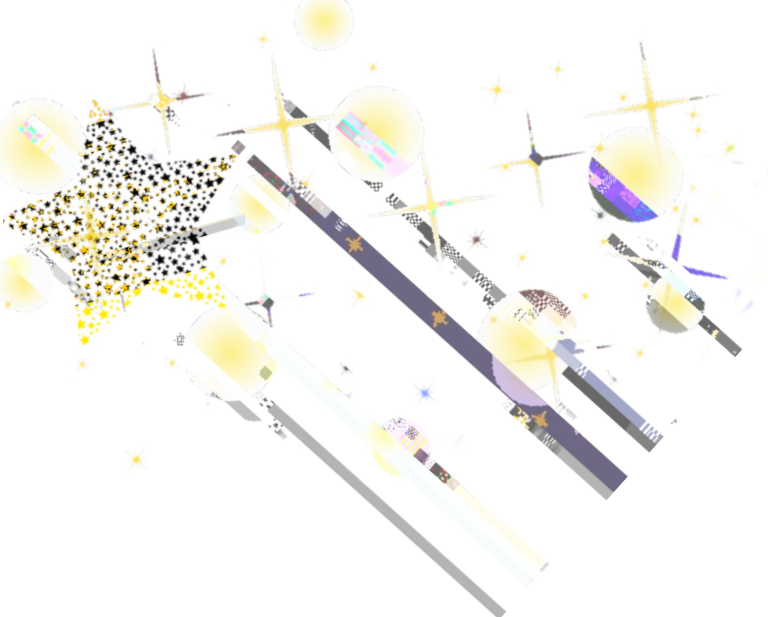
Another project, currently under development, will work for

, the project will build employers’ and authorities’ awareness of and compliance with Article 23 of Law 1257/2008, which works through business tax exemptions to facilitate access to employment for women survivors of political and domestic violence.





An UNDEF project in Mexico works to ensure access to social security for 2.2 million domestic workers who have previously been denied

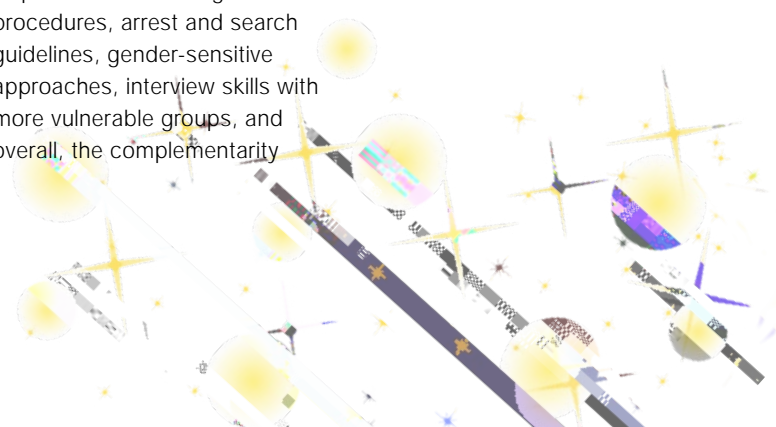


Jordan projects work for rights of detainees, stronger independent investigative reporting

An UNDEF project in Jordan provides legal representation for detainees so as to ensure their human rights are respected. Implemented by Justice Center for Legal Aid, the project seeks to bring holistic change on all levels of engagement through capacity enhancement, awareness-raising and provision of legal services. UNDEF Senior project GLEAM visited the project in October 2021, participating in a project workshop on best practices in pre-trial rights - focusing on inspection and investigation procedures, arrest and search guidelines, gender-sensitive approaches, interview skills with more vulnerable groups, and overall, the complementarity

of duty lawyers' and police

Christian Lamarre also met with an UNDEF Jordan project to strengthen independent media and expand the ecosystem of investigative reporting, thus building



Iraq projects empower youth to rebuild after IS; strengthen media freedom

An UNDEF project in Iraq works to strengthen youth participation in democratic processes, building a network of young activists to develop skills in leadership, negotiation and communication. Youth use media tools to communicate their stories and experiences, and engage with local authorities and other civil society actors to advance democracy and human rights. Implemented by Al-Tadhamun Iraqi League for Youth, the project focuses on 16 targeted districts in three governorates – Al Anbar, Ninawa, and Saladin – struggling to rebuild following a period of IS occupation.

economic collapse following a disastrous unemployment rate, a severe lack of services, and an increase in the proportion of widows. The regions are also highly diverse in terms of religion, ethnicity and language.

The funding from UNDEF marked a turning point for Al-Tadhamun, providing visibility and opportunities for new partnerships networks, enabling them to launch a range of further initiatives, including supporting safe space for local identity groups, and creating a women's advisory board in Al Anbar governorate.



As a result of the project, Al-Tadhamun became a hub for youth and civil society; youth leaders designed their own peacebuilding initiatives in two adjacent governorates – Ninawa and Saladin – based on learning from the project; and young team leaders volunteered for election monitoring in their area, as well as training more local young people to do the same in Al Anbar.

Christian Lamarre visited the project in October 2021. He

Youth use media tools to communicate their stories and experiences

also met with an UNDEF project to strengthen journalism and media freedom in Iraq. The Kurdistan Human Rights Watch Organization, the project works to strengthen media professionalism, security, awareness of rights, advocacy for safer reporting conditions, as well as more accurate reporting and analysis as a component of democracy. Project activities also incorporate a response to the Covid-19 crisis for media on the



Lebanon projects work for women's civil status, refugees; journalism, SDG activism

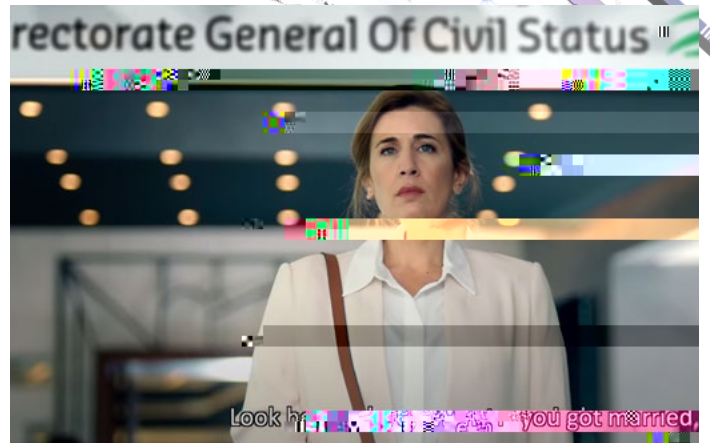
An UNDEF project in Lebanon works to strengthen the autonomy of Syrian women refugees so as to increase their opportunity to fully participate in the democratic, economic and reconstruction processes -- whether they return to Syria or stay in the host country. The project has adapted to both the global pandemic and the multiple crises impacting Lebanon, including the devastating explosion in Beirut in August 2020. The women's sub-projects, which include Syrian cuisine for charity and crafts such as face masks, allows them to demonstrate

The Dar Zeytouna project, implemented by Mandat International, builds on a series of previous pioneering UNDEF pilot projects with Syrian women refugees in Turkey and Lebanon. It works to establish and maintain a centre for Syrian refugees to meet and support a variety of enterprises projects, while encouraging collaboration between Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities. The project operates a centre as a meeting place and shared resource to enable Syrian women refugees, and some Lebanese women from the host community, to implement projects they conceptualized and developed. Through the project, the group has learned small business management, online advertising, basic accounting, and a trade.

In October 2021, participating in a workshop which illustrated how the project created economic opportunities for women, but also empowered them socially. They have more authority at home, respect in the community, and self-esteem generally. The project has also encouraged them to learn a trade to one another, and has inspired other Syrian women to start similar initiatives. Men are also now contacting the project to ask to participate in the project.

The above project was one of eight UNDEF Lebanon projects visited by Christian Lamarre in October. These included:

- A project to work through journalism to foster greater accountability and governance. Implemented by Journalists for Human Rights, the project works to advance media freedom and access to data and information; enhance the capacity for journalists to cover sensitive human rights related issues; engage underrepresented groups and ethnic minorities; provide journalists with resources to improve their legal knowledge through strong working relationships with civic actors. The project focuses on underrepresentation of marginalized communities in politics and media, and the mismanagement of national resources leading to an increased socio-economic divide, all of which threaten future democratic reforms.
- A project to strengthen civil society capacity for policy dialogue on sustainable development and Agenda 2030. Implemented by the Arab NGO Network for Development, it works to develop and implement a training curriculum that embraces an integrated perspective on human rights and sustainable development. It will hold national and regional training for over 100 Arab civil society leaders from across the region, to be disseminated to Arab States through e-newsletters, pamphlets and infographics.



successful UNDEF-Abaad project campaigning to abolish Lebanon's women and adolescent girls in Lebanon, the main protection concerns remain rape, marriage as a result of rape, forced and early marriage, domestic violence, and sexual harassment and exploitation. Unaccompanied girls, single female heads of households, child mothers or spouses and women and girls living with disabilities are particularly vulnerable given lack of legal protection, lack of economic resources, social norms and attitudes. The new project thus aims to address the structural issues in the Lebanese Penal survivors of gender-based violence. The project hopes to achieve this by engaging survivors in campaigns for legal reform and cooperating to change norms.

- A project to work through journalism to foster greater accountability and governance. Implemented by Journalists for Human Rights, the project works to advance media freedom and access to data and information; enhance the capacity for journalists to cover sensitive human rights related issues; engage underrepresented groups and ethnic minorities; provide journalists with resources to improve their legal knowledge through strong working relationships with civic actors. The project focuses on underrepresentation of marginalized communities in politics and media, and the mismanagement of national resources leading to an increased socio-economic divide, all of which threaten future democratic reforms.
- A project to strengthen civil society capacity for policy dialogue on sustainable development and Agenda 2030. Implemented by the Arab NGO Network for Development, it works to develop and implement a training curriculum that embraces an integrated perspective on human rights and sustainable development. It will hold national and regional training for over 100 Arab civil society leaders from across the region, to be disseminated to Arab States through e-newsletters, pamphlets and infographics.