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⌘ KATHIMERINI


NEWS FROM THE FIELD

A national conference on the right to know in Cambodia

An UNDEF project in Cambodia held a national conference on citizens' access to information in May 2013 with participation of government, human rights experts, legal practitioners and civil society leaders. It was part of an UNDEF-funded initiative in Cambodia to improve social accountability and transparency, strengthen administrative and management procedures and to improve local authorities' response to the needs of local communities. The project provides training and capacity building for local councils on access to information, awareness raising activities through public community forums, citizen feedback mechanisms, media campaigns and advocacy for a national legal framework on access to information. The initiative is implemented by the Advocacy and Policy Institute, a leading advocacy institution in Cambodia in the field of access to information at local and national levels.

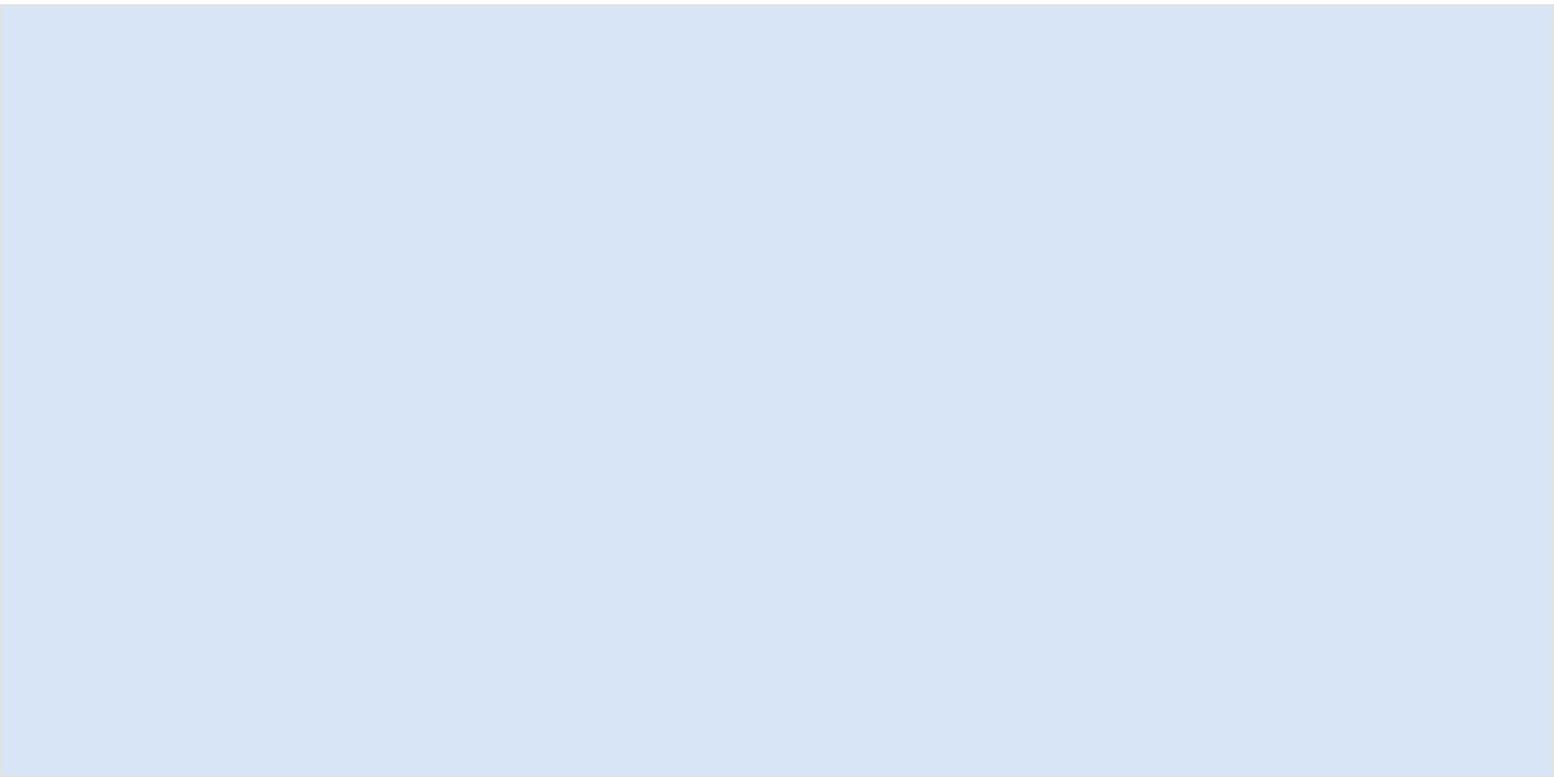
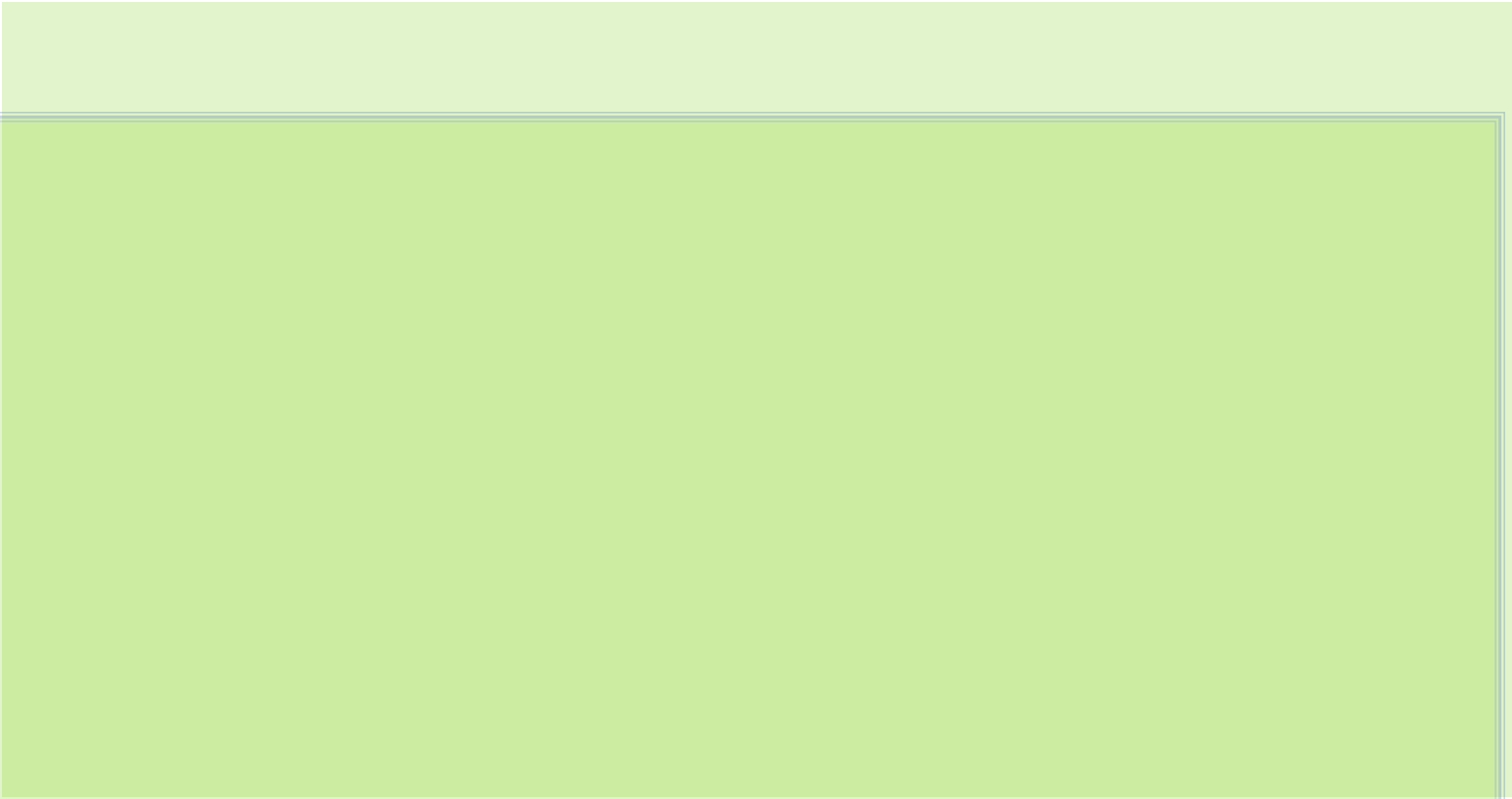
Building access to information in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

An UNDEF project in Bangladesh empowers indigenous people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts to access information on public services offered by local government institutions and departments. In this way, the initiative contributes both to indigenous communities' participation in the democratic governance process, and to their access to public services for their survival, livelihood and development. The project increases awareness of the legislated right to information, generating public demand, strengthening community-based institutions as an information source, sensitizing local government and NGOs about their roles and responsibilities for information delivery, and strengthening and organizing local media to cover and advocate right to information issues. The project is implemented by Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha.



UNDEF funds a project to empower Jordanian artists and journalists to act as "Freedom Messengers" -- catalysts and networkers for free speech and media. The project, focused on people under 35 and implemented by the Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists in Jordan, held a public event at Amman's Royal Cultural Center in June featuring street theatre, rap music, short films and more, performed by artists in the Freedom Messengers Network. Please go to

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