



World Learning

EDUCATION | DEVELOPMENT | EXCHANGE

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

WORLD LEARNING PROGRAMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA MENA REGION

For more than a decade, World Learning has supported growth and stability in a range of countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region through local education and workforce development programs as well as professional and university exchanges. We collaborate with local stakeholders to tailor each program to address the specific needs of local communities.

World Learning's local education and workforce development programs empower students and professionals alike to prosper in the modern economy. These in-country programs include teacher training and education policy development to promote early grade reading, life skills development and career counseling for youth, English language training, civic engagement and youth leadership, STEM education, and support for vulnerable populations such as victims of war, children and orphans, internally displaced persons, refugees, and people with disabilities.

As with our development programming, World Learning's education and exchange programs are designed to train the next generation of leaders in the MENA region. We offer youth exchanges that encourage the exploration of civic and community engagement as well as academic exchanges at all levels to prepare students for a rapidly changing global marketplace.

Here is a sampling of our country-specific and regional programming:





ALGERIA

ENGLISH ACCESS MICROSCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2015–2019

The English Access Microscholarship Program (Access) is a U.S. State Department-funded program that teaches English language skills to talented 13-to-20-year-old Algerian students from disadvantaged sectors through after-school classes and intensive summer sessions. Students from more than 20 schools around the country participate in the program for two years, receiving a minimum of 360 hours of instruction, plus enhancement activities.

The curriculum provides students with a familiarity of and appreciation for American culture and democratic values. It increases their ability to participate in Algeria's socioeconomic development and prepares them for future cultural exchange and educational programs. It also provides U.S.-based professional development and English language workshops for selected teachers and students.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECT (YEP) 2015–2018

The Youth Employment Project (YEP) seeks to prepare more than 2,000 unemployed youths in rural areas of Algeria for long-term employment opportunities. World Learning is working to establish youth employment centers in technical schools in nine of the country's most at-risk communities. These centers will train youth in the soft and technical skills that employers need and place those students in local job opportunities. They will also provide access to technological applications aimed at strengthening online job application processes and encouraging dialogue between youth and employers. Participating technical schools will receive sub-grants to help them develop robust financial

and program management systems, ensuring the continued sustainability of the program.

ALGIERS STEAM CENTER 2016–PRESENT

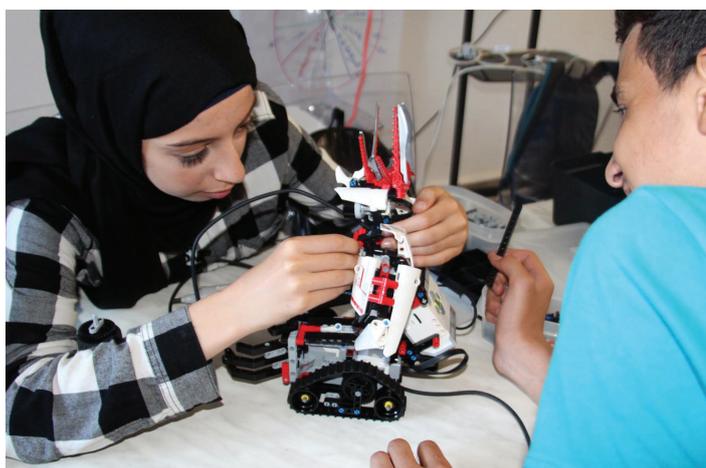
The Algiers STEAM Center—focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math—is an industry-led initiative designed to strengthen the innovation, critical thinking, and communication skills of the Algerian workforce. The STEAM Center achieves this objective by training youth and teachers alike in this interdisciplinary educational approach that emphasizes hands-on innovation and solving real-world problems. It also hosts community education forums and events. Launched with support from the U.S. Embassy in Algiers, the center is supported by DOW Chemical Company, Anadarko Petroleum, and The Boeing Company.

PLUS PROGRAM 2013–2018

In collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Algiers, World Learning is working with a second round of five schools around the country to develop and implement a comprehensive package of English language instruction, civic engagement, and social entrepreneurship activities for at-risk youth. The program focuses on improving the English language skills of youth participants while providing career counseling, pre-employment training, and leadership skills. The program seeks to counteract violent extremism and help youth make responsible decisions about their future career paths and engagement with community.

OUARGLA CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER 2011–PRESENT

World Learning's career development center at the University of Ouargla prepares Algerian students for a challenging job market. With support from Anadarko Petroleum, World Learning offers students one-on-one career guidance, professional soft skills and civic engagement training, English for the Workplace courses, career fairs, and connections to local employers. These programs have had an important impact on the region. In a 2016 survey of more than 200 CDC alumni, 72% of participants had found employment, while 90% reported they have applied their new skills to launching their careers.



PAST PROJECTS

PROMOTING EDUCATION, ALTRUISM, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (PEACE) 2012-2016

The Promoting Education, Altruism, and Civic Engagement (PEACE) program engaged Algerian university students and select young leaders with disabilities in addressing social problems within their communities. Project activities achieved four primary objectives:

- Enhanced the capacity of Algerian universities and civil society organizations to collaboratively provide students volunteer and career opportunities
- Improved leadership, project planning, and job skills for Algerian university students and youth with disabilities
- Increased student participation in community service projects
- Ensured the program's sustainability by building on current government and donor initiatives, strengthening existing civil society networks, creating new partnerships, and building local training capacity

ALGERIA UNIVERSITY LINKAGES PROGRAM (AULP) 2010-2015

The Algeria University Linkages Program (AULP) designed and delivered high-quality, industry-driven English language and business course studies to select universities in the country. The program was carried out by a team led by World Learning that included its SIT Graduate Institute, the Thunderbird School of Global Management, and Education for Employment. In addition to language skills, the program supported university career centers to create opportunities for students through a soft skills training program and by forging connections with private industry.







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MANARA-INTRODUCING INCLUSION TO VISUALLY IMPAIRED WOMEN 2017-2018

World Learning Europe is implementing a project to introduce social inclusion—the belief that everyone should have a voice in public debates—to Light & Hope, the oldest NGO serving visually impaired women in Egypt. Through our Egypt-based limited liability company Nile Development and Education (NDEED) and with funding from Boeing Company, we conducted an institutional analysis of L&H, which resulted in a capacity development plan that outlined the areas in which it needed support. NDEED worked with L&H board members, caregivers, and women beneficiaries of all ages to deliver training and strengthen the organization’s capacity. NDEED will implement TAAP-Transforming Agency Access and Power to integrate inclusion into L&H’s approach and vision.

EGYPT STEM SCHOOLS PROJECT (ESSP) 2012-2017

The Egypt STEM Schools Project harnesses the potential of the country’s youth through innovative science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education. World Learning, in partnership with The Franklin Institute, 21st Century Partnership for STEM Education, Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM, and Management Systems International developed a network of 11 STEM model public high schools that use an integrated project-based curriculum to promote critical thinking and real world applications. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and USAID, the project also delivers comprehensive support to students, teachers, and administrators in addition to introducing key policies, engaging the private sector, and involving community stakeholders. This initiative supports a new vision for Egypt as a country equipped with the human capital and institutional resources to compete and excel in the global economy.

PAST PROJECTS

LINKING EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 2012-2016

Through the USAID-funded Linking Education and Employment (LEEP) program, World Learning supported the simultaneous development of three career centers at universities in underserved and geographically diverse regions outside of Cairo. The program helped equip students and graduates with necessary job skills and it linked partner universities with local and national businesses to create tangible opportunities for students and recent graduates as well as facilitate the school-to-work transition. LEEP served 9,430 students and graduates.

ENGLISH FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS 2011-2012

An advanced working knowledge of the English language is a vital tool of the modern researcher seeking to be published in international peer-reviewed journals—approximately 85% of all research publications are in English. Seeking to address this issue, World Learning collaborated with Egypt’s Fayoum University to create the English for Scientific Researchers program to help faculty develop the necessary competencies to present their research to the international scholarly community. Blending in-person and online instruction, the program engaged participants in interactive assignments designed to improve their academic writing skills and comprehension of specialized scientific language. The project also trained the English faculty at Fayoum University on how to teach the program to future scholars.





IRAQ

IRAQI YOUNG LEADERS EXCHANGE PROGRAM (IYLEP) 2013–2017

The Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program (IYLEP) is a four-week summer exchange program bringing English-speaking students between the ages of 15 and 17 from all provinces in Iraq to the U.S. to explore leadership development, civic rights and responsibilities, respect for diversity, and community engagement. Funded by the U.S. Department of State, competitively selected American students join activities with Iraqi participants. Following the U.S.-based exchange, participants engage in community service projects as well as alumni activities focused on leadership development. World Learning also facilitates an IYLEP session for Arabic speakers, designed to reach an even broader swath of students. Since 2013, 1,090 young leaders have participated in IYLEP.

DIGITAL YOUNG LEADERS EXCHANGE PROGRAM (DYLEP) 2016–2017

The Digital Young Leaders Exchange Program (DYLEP) is a four-month virtual exchange program connecting 325 students from Iraq and the U.S. Students use videos, discussion forums, webinars, online chats, and games to develop their understanding of leadership, global issues, and civic engagement. Students participate in small group discussions and exchange ideas about topical issues of global importance, including climate change, gender discrimination, and poverty. After the program, students apply their new knowledge and skills to service projects.





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عندما وصلنا إلى القلعة، نعتب دراهم البر الفضية
والم التي نعملها، قال التلميذ
أجابت دراهم، لا بل الشعر بالمثل فقد استعدت تلك القلعة
ساعات وأياما كثيرة من العبودية ليس التمسر بأحد فساد
قال التلميذ، والتلميذ يا دراهم، هذا اليوم جاهدنا إلى التمسك
وإذا لم أشهدك لشهد.
دراهم، هذا العقل أن فساد القلعة من يوم أخذت
فقد يكون هذا هو السبب، قال التلميذ
وقالت دراهم، تساهلنا، ساهموا في إفساد القلعة
تذكرتني يا دراهم، فقد التمسك، وتلميذ

QUALITY INSTRUCTION TOWARDS ACCESS AND BASIC EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT (QITABI) 2014–2018

The USAID-funded Quality Instruction Towards Access and Basic Education Improvement (QITABI) project aims to expand equitable access and improve reading outcomes for vulnerable students in Lebanese public schools. It focuses on alleviating strains to the system from the continuing flow of Syrian refugee children into Lebanese public schools. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Lebanon (MEHE), QITABI works to improve facilities, services, and teaching as well as effectively engage communities and school councils—all with the aim of improving learning and encouraging youth to remain in the education system. The QITABI Consortium is led by World Learning, and includes Ana Aqra', AMIDEAST, and Management Systems International (MSI).

LEADERS FOR DEMOCRACY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (LDF) 2015–2017

Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) is a U.S. State Department-funded program through the U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), supporting 100 civil society leaders over a two-year period as they address current political and social challenges in their communities. A U.S. and Lebanon-based fellowship combines five weeks of academic learning with a nine-week practicum in which Fellows gain skills, experience, and professional ties with U.S. and MENA institutions. LDF supports a dynamic alumni network of 350 emerging leaders.

PAST PROJECTS

DEVELOPING REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS AND TEACHER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM II (D-RASATI 2) 2013–2016

World Learning worked with the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) to improve the country's public school system and

allow it to provide a high-quality education on par with the private school system. The Developing Rehabilitation Assistance to Schools and Teacher Improvement II (D-RASATI 2) program embedded institutional capacity building as well as operational and technical know-how into the structure of the public school system.

D-RASATI 2 focused on stakeholders at all levels: it provided school administrators with interactive learning opportunities and continuous mentoring and coaching on approaches to school development; it trained teachers on English language skills, language instruction and methodology, and how to organize and implement extracurricular activities; it also encouraged parents and local community involvement in school development. D-RASATI 2 was led by World Learning, in partnership with AMIDEAST, the American Lebanese Language Center (ALLC), Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT), The American University in Beirut (AUB), and REED.

The project also gave particular attention to schools in communities with high concentrations of Syrian refugees, promoting social cohesion and psychosocial support skills.

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS (EYH) 2012–2015

World Learning's three-year Expand Your Horizons (EYH) program strengthened the abilities of 150 Lebanese organizations to play more effective roles in their communities. Funded by USAID and implemented in partnership with AMIDEAST and Knowledge Development Company, EYH offered technical and professional training sessions—hosted in Lebanon, the United States, and other countries—to organizations and their employees in civil society, government, and the private sector. The program also supported the development of professional networks among those organizations and individuals. Armed with new technical skills, improved professional processes, and connections to other experts in their field, these organizations are better positioned to carry out necessary reforms.



RAMAT HASHIKMA SOUTH APARTMENTS

MASTER'S PROGRAM FOR WEST BANK AND GAZA 2013-2017

The Master's Scholarship Program (MSP) provides 20 Palestinian university graduates with access to master's-level educational opportunities in the U.S. Participants study in the following fields: water treatment, agribusiness, industrial production and operations management, public administration, teaching English as a foreign language, construction management, and youth development.

Upon completion of their master's programs, participants bring back technical knowledge and skills that contribute to the development of the Palestinian economy. New perspectives and ideas gained during those programs enhance their development as leaders and increase their understanding of the U.S. MSP continues to support participants through follow-on activities—such as internships, research opportunities, and community service events—in the West Bank and Gaza meant to enrich their academic experience and contribute to community development. World Learning is the program lead and works in close collaboration with in-country partner AMIDEAST.





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PAST PROJECT

TUNISIAN VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CURRICULUM REVIEW 2012–2015

World Learning's English Language Curriculum Review project strengthened the ability of Tunisian vocational institutes to provide students with the practical English skills they need for employment. World Learning SIT carried out a comprehensive English language curriculum review, engaging key stakeholders in analysis of core curriculum components: teachers and teaching, students and learning, materials (including textbooks and technology), assessment and evaluation, vocational institute English language policy, and local and regional employers. This collaborative approach resulted in the identification of core areas where curriculum could be revised, as well as practical recommendations and guidelines for meaningful curriculum change. Ultimately, it provided a strategic pathway to effective and lasting improvements in English language teaching for vocational students.



REGIONAL

COMMUNITIES CONNECTING HERITAGE 2016-2018

Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia

This program is designed to strengthen appreciation and preservation of local cultural heritage while engaging at-risk communities, empowering youth, and building partnerships between communities in the U.S. and countries in the Middle East. Administered in partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Cultural Programs Division of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the program reinforces positive narratives about communities and encourages cultural heritage appreciation through community outreach and public education. These virtual partnerships and projects will culminate in reciprocal in-person exchanges as well as public exhibitions exploring local cultural heritage.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS 2012-2017

Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen, Palestinian Territories

World Learning SIT Graduate Institute partners with institutions worldwide to deliver a suite of professional development courses for English language teachers at various stages of their careers.

The SIT TESOL Certificate is an internationally recognized course offered around the world. It is based on the same principles found in our master's degree program, such as reflection, group work, and experiential learning. It is equally effective as an introduction to language teaching or as a development tool for experienced educators.

GLOBAL UGRAD 2016-2019

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates

The Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (Global UGRAD) is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural

Affairs (ECA) and administered by World Learning. This international educational and cultural exchange program brings about 250 future leaders to the U.S. each year to study at American universities and explore U.S. culture and values.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF SURVIVORS GRANT SOLICITATION AND MANAGEMENT (SPANS GSM) 2008-2018

Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Territories

The Special Programs to Address the Needs of Survivors assists vulnerable populations—including displaced children and orphans, war victims, victims of torture, and persons with disabilities—in 41 countries by supporting service delivery, training, and related activities through grants management.

World Learning awards grants on behalf of USAID to:

- Wheelchair Program Fund: Supporting wheelchair provision, including research, testing, and developing international standards.
- Displaced Children and Orphans Fund: Preventing inappropriate institutionalization of children; helping formerly institutionalized children integrate into communities; working with ministries to develop appropriate child protection methods; providing emergency child protection measures in conflict situations; and promoting early childhood development for vulnerable children.
- Leahy War Victims Fund: Improving data and information about the use and utility of prosthetic and orthotic devices and physical therapy as part of a rehabilitation continuum; providing vocational and economic strengthening for people with disabilities; and supporting disabled people's organizations.
- Disability Fund: Supporting activities related to disability issues that cannot be included in the above categories but still fit with the overall SPANS Grant Solicitation and Management objective of improving the health of vulnerable populations.
- Victims of Torture Fund: Assisting the treatment and rehabilitation of individuals, families and community members who suffer from the physical and psychological effects of torture and trauma.

PAST PROJECTS

PEACE SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM

2007-2010

Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Territories

The Peace Scholarships Program helped cultivate a new generation of leaders and strengthen international understanding across the Middle East and North Africa. With funding from USAID, World Learning awarded 48 MENA students scholarships for one year of full-time undergraduate study at U.S. colleges and universities. The program offered participants networking opportunities with U.S. faculty and students, as well as leadership training that empowered them to address issues in their communities at home.



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