

For Immediate Release



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AUB: Closing ceremony of “The Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program” in Lebanon

The 2016 Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) Program, funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Program and implemented in Lebanon by World Learning in collaboration with the American University of Beirut (AUB), held its closing ceremony that took place in Bathish Auditorium, West Hall AUB and was attended by Mr. George Aldridge, MEPI Coordinator in Lebanon Chantal Souaid Mchantaf, LDF MENA Director at World Learning, and Director of Institutional Consulting at AUB Sami Gheriafi, in addition to 23 fellows from six MENA countries and program partners.

Based on leadership skills, merit and activism, the LDF program selected 23 fellows from the Middle East and North Africa to participate in the three-month program from Monday, July 18 until Friday, October 14 where they gained the knowledge and skills needed to be champions in and for their communities. The program combined five-weeks of academic learning with nine-weeks of professional practicum that enabled fellows to address common challenges in their countries as well as improve linkages with counterparts across the region.

During the first five weeks, these 23 fellows attended academic sessions at AUB that include the topics of Democracy and Democratic Governance, Leadership, Civic Engagement, Conflict Transformation, Communication and Campaigning. During the final eight weeks of the program, the fellows held their professional practicum where each practiced what was learned through working on a project with a host organization of his/her choosing. World Learning collaborated with 15 host organizations during the professional practicum. Among these host organizations are As-Safir, ALEF - Act for Human Rights, Arcenciel, Centre De L'Information et Science Humaine, Digital Opportunity Trust, Fighters for Peace, Institute of Women Studies in the Arab World, Media Association for Peace, MEPI Lebanese Alumni Association, Nahnoo, National Democratic Institute, Peace Labs, Sayara International, and Service Infirmier a Domicile.

All 23 fellows applied what was learned through the LDF program by creating a Civic Action Plan that will be implemented after returning to their countries.

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 420-bed hospital.

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