

For Immediate Release



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The Leaders For Democracy Fellowship Program **in Lebanon in Collaboration with AUB**

The 2018 Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) Program, funded by the U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Program, implemented in Lebanon by World Learning in collaboration with the American University of Beirut (AUB)'s office of the Vice President for Regional External Programs (REP) was officially launched on AUB campus.

The launching event was attended by Mr. Sami Gheriafi, Director of Institutional Consulting at REP, Wafa Kotob, Country Manager of World Learning, Chantal Souaid Mchantaf, LDF MENA Director at World Learning and Shawn Tenbrink, MEPI Lebanon Coordinator. World Learning's team included Maya Abou Antoun, Senior Program Officer, Christy Sleiman, Finance Officer and Chris Maaraoui, Program Assistant; AUB's team including Dr. Tania Haddad - technical coordinator, Noura Khaled - REP project coordinator and Afif Tabsh, REP Business Development & Projects Manager, attended the event. AUB hosted the LDF theme leaders in addition to 30 representatives from the partnering organizations and the 21 fellows from 9 MENA countries.

Based on leadership skills, merit and activism, the LDF program selected 21 fellows from the Middle East and North Africa to participate in the three-month program where they will gain the knowledge and skills needed to be champions in and for their communities. The program combines four-weeks of academic learning (AUB) with eight-weeks of professional practicum (LDF); which will enable fellows to address common challenges in their countries as well as improve linkages with counterparts across the region.

The fellows will attend academic sessions that include the topics of Effective Messaging and Communication, Participatory Governance, Conflict Transformation and Civic Engagement on AUB campus. The final eight weeks of the program will focus on professional practicum

managed by World Learning, where each fellow practices what he/she learned through a project internship with a host organization of his/her choosing.

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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 900 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 9,100 students. AUB currently offers more than 120 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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