

# Assessing Long-Term Impact:

## USAID/Egypt & Indonesia Scholarship Programs



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### Program Overview

Through the USAID/Egypt Higher Education Initiative (HEI) MBA and STEM Scholarships for Women, USAID provided **scholarships to 157 Egyptian women** from 2015 through 2020.

Between 2006 through 2020, USAID/Indonesia also supported **357 scholarship for Indonesian professionals** as part of the Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HICD) program and Program to Extend Scholarships and Training to Achieve Sustainable Impacts (PRESTASI). An additional **1,280 Indonesians participated in short-term training programs** with USAID PRESTASI support.



Through these programs, USAID equipped a cadre of Egyptian women and Indonesian professionals with academic credentials, a holistic education, professional experience and networks, and cultural competence to be effective leaders in their professional fields and communities in Egypt and Indonesia.

Founded in 1919, the **Institute of International Education (IIE)** is a global leader in international education, designing and implementing programs that advance scholarship, build economies, and promote access to opportunity around the globe.

IIE undertook an **independent study to assess the long-term impact of USAID-funded scholarship programs** on scholars' professional and personal lives upon their return to their home country. As part of this effort, IIE reached out to scholars who participated in the Indonesia HICD Program (2006-2011) and its follow-on, the PRESTASI program (2011 - 2020), as well as the Higher Education Initiative in Egypt (2014 - 2020). The following results are based on findings from **200+ survey respondents** and **23 long-form interviews**.

### Professional Development

Personal skills gained or strengthened as a result of USAID scholarship:

- English language skills (89%)
- Critical thinking (81%)
- Research skills and techniques (76%)
- Communication & adaptability (76%)
- Leadership (71%)

Professional/life skills attributed to USAID scholarship program:

- Strengthened technical skills and knowledge (89%)
- Greater confidence in the workplace (76%)

### Personal Enrichment

- The scholarship and U.S. educational experience had a very positive impact on their personal lives (76%)

### Close Ties to the U.S.

- Remain in close contact with U.S. colleagues and counterparts (91%)

### Giving Back to Others

Contributions made to community as a result of USAID scholarship:

- Sharing resources on similar scholarship opportunities (77%)
- Empowering women within local Egyptian communities (55%)
- Community service/volunteering (50%)
- Bringing awareness to issues in the community (49%)

## Life Changing Experience

Upon their return to Egypt and Indonesia, alumni remarked that their job performance increased, and they received more opportunities. The technical and soft skills they learned in the U.S. are utilized daily in their professions.

## More Inclined to Give Back to Communities

USAID scholarship alumni share resources, help others seek similar scholarship opportunities, and mentor students. They participate more in community service, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Alumni also collaborate across sectors to support humanitarian, economic, and social assistance programs through their government ministries or non-governmental organizations.

## More Open Towards & Accepting of Diversity

Indonesian alumni strengthened their critical thinking skills and broadened their way of thinking, at work and in life. Due to their time in the U.S., they began to appreciate more cultures and different backgrounds

## Alumnae Feel More Independent

Egyptian alumnae learned how to be self-reliant and financially independent, which has been instrumental in helping them plan for their future. They feel more empowered as women and have made a point to empower other women in their communities. 50% of scholars interviewed also reported that families of alumnae are more open to the idea of women pursuing opportunities outside of cultural norms, e.g., women travelling and living alone



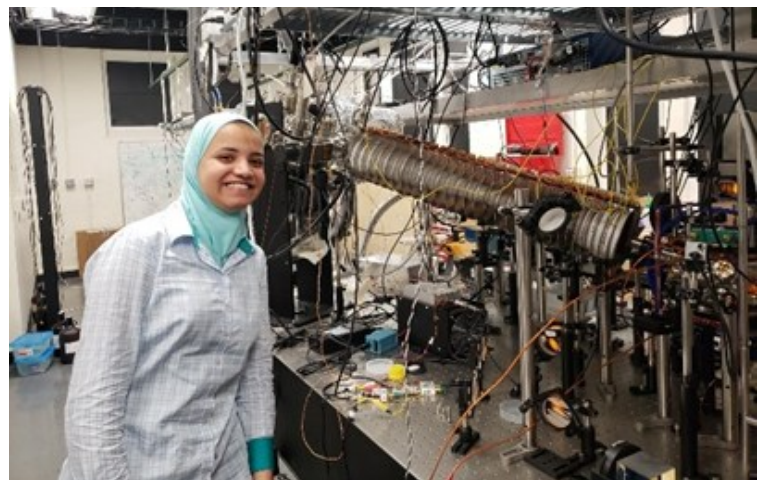
*PRESTASI-III scholar presenting on gender equity and inclusion*

**"The program completely changed my life. I don't think I would have ever gotten where I am right now professionally without it. I'm more open, I'm more positive, I can do whatever I set my mind to. It was a life-changing experience"**

*- Zienab Badreldin, HEI MBA*

**"I was a cofounder of a foundation that helped the elderly. We managed to get support from the government; like home visits to take care of them. I helped them with management systems, HR, to coach the staff and volunteers. Again, these skills are not there suddenly, it's from experience from America and the learning process from my organization really helped me to transfer the professionalism aspect of my life."**

*- Frans Samosir*



## Contact Us

Interested in learning more about the survey results and how IIE designs and leads scholarship programs?

Contact David Simpson, USAID Programs Director, at [DSimpson@iie.org](mailto:DSimpson@iie.org)

*IIE would like to recognize and thank Lidia Awad for her contributions in conducting the impact assessment.*

  
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