

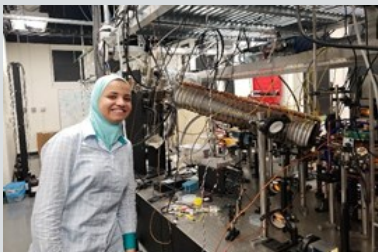
Assessing Long-Term Impact: USAID/Egypt HEI MBA & STEM Scholarship for Women



The Power
of International
Education

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**. Scholarship recipients pursued Master of Business Administration (MBA) degrees and Bachelor's degrees in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields at U.S. universities.



HEI STEM Scholar in U.S. research lab

Scholars also received **training in English language proficiency**, participated in **internships** in both the U.S. and Egypt, and received post-graduation support in **career readiness and job placement**. In these ways, the HEI MBA and STEM Scholarships for Women created a cadre of Egyptian women equipped with the **academic credentials, professional experience and networks, and cultural competence** to be effective leaders in their professional fields and communities in Egypt.

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 alumnae who participated in the USAID/Egypt Higher Education Initiative (HEI) MBA and STEM Scholarships for Women. The following results are based on findings from **55 survey respondents** and **8 long-form interviews**.

Professional Development

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

- English language skills (91%)
- Self-reliance (84%)
- Leadership (75%)
- Research skills and techniques (73%)
- Communication & adaptability (73%)
- Critical thinking (65%)

Professional/life skills attributed to USAID scholarship program:

- Strengthened technical skills and knowledge (80%)
- Greater confidence in the workplace (62%)
- More motivation to pursue further studies (64%)

Personal Enrichment

- The scholarship and U.S. educational experience had a positive impact on their personal lives (91%)

Close Ties to the U.S.

- Remain in close contact with U.S. colleagues and counterparts (95%)
- Share American culture (food, language, etc.) in Egypt (56%)

Giving Back to Others

Contributions made to community as a result of USAID scholarship:

- Empowering women within local communities (55%)
- Mentoring others (51%)
- Tutoring and sharing skills with others (47%)
- Bringing awareness to issues affecting local communities (47%)

Life
Changing
Experience

Experienced
Opened Doors

Alumnae
Feel More
Independent

Impacted
Women's
Empowerment

More Inclined to
Give Back to
Communities

Upon their return to Egypt, alumnae remarked that their job performance increased, and their degree helped them look more qualified to potential employers. The technical and soft skills they learned in the U.S. are utilized daily in their professions.

Alumnae reported receiving job offers 2-3 months after returning home on average. 56% of HEI STEM graduates were accepted into Master's or PhD programs to continue their education

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 reported that families of alumnae are more open to the idea of women pursuing opportunities outside of cultural norms, i.e. women travelling and living alone.

USAID scholarship alumnae share resources, help others seek similar scholarship opportunities, and volunteer in their communities.



2018 MBA Re-entry Workshop

"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



"There was a USAID call for community development initiatives. So I applied for it with 2 friends from the same program and we got a grant for a project we called it DREAM. The project is to raise the capabilities of orphans in slum areas and under privilege - or orphanages. So our beneficiaries were kids and teenagers from the age of 6 to 14. And what we did was we went every 2 weeks to a different orphanage, making some activities-storytelling puppet shows, about what does it mean to dream and the challenges they face in their position. That was a great experience"

- Mary Abdelnour, HEI MBA

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

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



Follow @IIEglobal