

Leadership Development Fellowship Description

2020-2022

The Leadership Development Fellowship (LDF) is funded by the U.S. Department of State's U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and implemented by World Learning. The LDF Fellowship engages emerging leaders across sectors in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in five stages over one-year application-based leadership development fellowship to advance civic engagement and social entrepreneurship by providing skills, resources, and support networks to analyze complex challenges, re-examine interventions, and to seek inventive ways to make positive social and economic changes in local communities. Emerging leaders with an established track record in civic engagement or social entrepreneurship are encouraged to apply.

The LDF Fellowship has 5 stages:

1. **Stage One:** Fellowship begins with two weeks of in-person workshops and trainings with World Learning and Duke University focused on: studying the systems that contribute to societal challenges; building effective partnerships for social change; and developing inclusive and equitable interventions.
2. **Stage Two:** Fellows refine interventions and complete exercises that provide local focus on systems analysis, inclusive interventions, building partnerships, and other acquired tools and knowledge from Stage One.
3. **Stage Three:** Fellows spend three weeks in the United States for the English Track (for high-proficiency English speakers), or Lebanon for the Arabic Track (for high-proficiency Arabic speakers), to gain academic and local insights into civic engagement and social entrepreneurship and to report and reflect on the findings of their Stage Two activities.
4. **Stage Four:** Over six months, Fellows apply the lessons of the LDF Fellowship and report on results to strengthen their ongoing civic and social entrepreneurial activities. During this stage, Fellows may apply for small grants or technical assistance.
5. **Stage Five:** In the twelfth month, the Fellows reconvene for three days to learn and share the impact of their LDF experience.

MEPI seeks emerging leaders who are innovators and problem-solvers, currently engaged in civic engagement or social entrepreneurship, can work in a cross-cultural setting, have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and commit to applying the learning and skills built during the LDF Fellowship.

Those selected will come from diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, organizations, and political affiliations. The LDF Fellowship does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical challenge or social status. We aim to create an inclusive and multicultural environment that allows all people to thrive.

Eligibility to Apply

1. **Age:** Applicants should be between 28 and 35 years of age.

2. **Professional Experience:** Applicants must have at least five years of professional work experience in a relevant field.
3. **Civic Engagement and/or Social Entrepreneurship Experience:** Applicants must have a minimum of five years of relevant Civic Engagement and/or Social Entrepreneurship experience.
4. **Academic Background:** Applicants must have a bachelor's degree.
5. **English Fluency for the English Track:** All eligible applicants wishing to apply for the English track must have strong written and oral English proficiency. All U.S.-based activities are conducted in English.
6. **Arabic Fluency:** All eligible applicants must have strong written and oral Arabic proficiency.
7. **Participation:** Applicants must be willing and able to participate fully in all five stages of the LDF Fellowship. Fellows will travel out of the MENA region for two weeks at the beginning of the fellowship, for three weeks to either the U.S. or Lebanon during Stage Three, and again for three days at the end of the fellowship.
8. **Application:** All eligible applicants must have the capacity and ability to immediately apply the knowledge and skills gained throughout the LDF Fellowship.
9. **Eligible Countries:** For eligible countries for the English Track and Arabic Track please refer to [MEPI Website](#)

Applications reviewed based on clearly defined criteria, including that the applicant:

- Demonstrate that they are emerging leaders with a strong commitment to affecting positive change in their communities;
- Demonstrate that they have already been actively engaged in civic engagement and social entrepreneurship for a minimum of five years;
- Demonstrate through practical examples their capacity to adapt to a multi-cultural environment and their ability to work collaboratively with a diverse cohort of peers regardless of their gender identity, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, political view and socioeconomic status; and
- Demonstrate they can immediately apply the knowledge and skills gained during the 12-month LDF Fellowship.

Accommodations during in-person engagements can include double-person rooms, dorm lodging, or shared two-bedroom apartments. An allowance will be provided during in-person engagements to help cover meals and incidentals. The cost of international and domestic travel, fellowship-related ground transportation, and other logistical arrangements will be covered by World Learning.

Leadership Development Fellowship – English Track

Strong written and oral English and Arabic proficiency is required of Fellows for the English track. Fellows travel to the U.S. during Stage Three of the LDF Fellowship and will converse about complex political and global issues with peers and experts in English. For eligible countries visit <https://mepi.state.gov/education/ldf/>

Fellows chosen to participate in the English Track of the LDF Fellowship will travel to the U.S. to attend a three-week academic and experiential experience focused on civic engagement and social entrepreneurship.

Leadership Development Fellowship – Arabic Track

Strong written and oral Arabic proficiency is required of Fellows for the Arabic track. Fellows travel to Lebanon during Stage Three of the LDF Fellowship and will need to converse about complex political and global issues with peers and experts in Arabic. For eligible countries visit

<https://mepi.state.gov/education/ldf/>

Fellows chosen to participate in the Arabic Track of the LDF Fellowship will travel to Lebanon to attend a three-week academic and experiential experience focused on civic engagement and social entrepreneurship.