



Overview of U.S. Government Support for Women in Morocco

Educating Women and Girls

- **USAID pilot program to assess basic reading and math skills among early primary school students:** launched in 2011 as part of the Ministry of Education's national efforts to enhance educational quality, this is one among a growing portfolio of USAID programs to promote girls' and women's education. Data will be used to help Moroccan teachers improve teaching practices and will provide feedback to parents on their children's academic strengths and weaknesses. The data will also be used by school administrators to help structure a teacher-training program based on identified students' learning needs.
- **Morocco Compact:** In 2007, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) signed a five-year, \$697.5 million Compact with the Kingdom of Morocco to reduce poverty and stimulate economic growth. Moroccan women are benefitting significantly from a \$32.8M Functional Literacy and Vocational Training Activity to strengthen the basic functional Arabic literacy capacity of approximately 69,000 illiterate men, women, and youth across the program's three largest beneficiary groups (small-scale farmers, artisanal fishermen, and artisans) and the professional skills of over 23,000 total artisan beneficiaries. See: <http://www.mcc.gov/pages/countries/program/morocco-compact>
- **Peace Corps programs building women's capacity:** in the Youth Development sector, Peace Corps volunteers work with young Moroccan women in dar chebabs to improve their skills (such as English language, leadership, and life skills); in Small Business Development sector they work with female artisans to gain greater economic opportunity and success as entrepreneurs (such as through work on marketing, accounting, product quality); in Health sector they work with young girls and women to promote personal and environment health and reinforce appropriate health behaviors; and in the Environment sector they collaborate with local partners to promote environmental education and expand local communities' capacity to improve environmental quality. See: <http://www.peacecorps.gov/>
- **The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)** in Morocco has funded a number of education campaigns to empower women, such as a program by the Nour Association for the Solidarity of Rural Women to encourage the delay of marriage by underage girls in rural areas so that they can complete their education, and the High Atlas program to train elected women officials to assert themselves in the affairs of their communes in a more effective way. In the past, MEPI started an on-going program to raise awareness of breast cancer in Morocco and helped initiate caravans and trainings to rural areas, advice centers for women to call, and stronger advocacy for care for women in their final stages of the disease. See: <http://mepi.state.gov>

Enhancing Women's Political Participation

- **The USAID Local Governance Project** is working with elected women officials in an effort to support, consolidate and build on the reforms that Morocco is undertaking. This project strives to promote the active citizenship of women, to strengthen their leadership, and promote their involvement in local governance and elected bodies.
- **The USAID Political Party Capacity Building Project** created a "Women Helping Women" committee to promote women's candidacies and participation in municipal elections as well as a series of Young Women Councilors Exchanges in Rabat. The program also helped train women as candidates and campaign managers for the 2011 Parliamentary Elections.

Empowering Women Entrepreneurs

- **The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)** has supported several programs which foster the economic empowerment of Moroccan women. One done by the Association des Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises du Maroc is a successful incubator program which takes nascent ideas for businesses and guides the women business owners step-by-step in developing a comprehensive business plan and gives them office space to and continued mentoring to help them get their business off the ground. MEPI is also helping disenfranchised battered and divorced women to learn skills and basic literacy to earn a small wage by making artisanal crafts through an organization called Association Azhar de Solidarité et de Sensibilisation. See: <http://mepi.state.gov>
- **Morocco Compact:** The Fruit Tree Productivity Project includes a \$2.2M gender pilot project, which is essentially a small grants program for women working in olive processing, tree pruning and maintenance, and fruit tree product marketing and sales. Similarly, the Compact's Small-scale Fisheries Project includes a \$2M pilot grant program for women working in fish processing, aquaculture, and improved marine product marketing. Finally, in the context of the Fez Medina Project, one of four foundouks being rehabilitated with MCC funds will be dedicated to women artisans and include spaces for women's education and childcare.
- **Global Girl Media (GGM) Morocco:** This program, sponsored by U.S. Embassy Rabat in collaboration with U.S. NGO Global Girl Media and ISCA film school in Rabat, trains young women as citizen journalists who harness the power of low-cost digital technologies to report on issues that matter to youth and women. This network of reporters is actively reporting via an independent news bureau: <http://www.globalgirlmediamorocco.org/>
- **Supporting women in sports:** As part of a series of initiatives to support women's leadership through sports, the Mission is hosting a Sports United envoy team of U.S. Women's Soccer coaches to conduct trainings and workshops for young Moroccan women soccer players, to encourage them to think about their careers after playing and possibly to take up coaching themselves or to start soccer clubs.

Offering Development and Exchange Opportunities

- **Tech Women:** this exchange program pairs woman in Silicon Valley with their counterparts in the Middle East and North Africa for a professional mentorship and exchange program at leading U.S. technology companies. Using innovative technologies, cutting-edge content, and social networking tools, TechWomen fosters and develops the next generation of women leaders in the technology field by providing women and girls with the access and opportunity needed to pursue tech-based careers. See: www.TechWomen.org
- **Tech Girls:** This competitive program is an educational exchange initiative for approximately 25 teenage girls from select countries and territories in the Middle East and North Africa that complements the TechWomen program. The three- to five-week exchange program in the United States focuses on promoting the high-level study of applied technology. This initiative champions two key themes of President Obama's June 2009 speech in Cairo by supporting development in the field of technology and enabling young women to reach their full potential in the technology industry. Two to five Moroccan girls will be selected this year. See: <http://moroccoworldnews.com/2011/07/clinton-launches-techgirls-for-young-muslims/3693>
- **Fortune/U.S. State Department Global Women's Mentoring Partnership:** This competitive program connects talented, emerging women leaders from all over the world and between 25-43, with members of Fortune's Most Powerful Women Leaders for a month-long internship program. Three young Moroccan women in business have participated since the creation of the program. See: <http://exchanges.state.gov/citizens/professionals/fortunepartnership.html>
- **Study of the U.S. Institute (SUSI) on Women's Leadership:** A five-to-six week competitive program for young female university student leaders which includes a strong academic component, an educational tour, community service, and leadership workshops. 5 to six young Moroccan girls are selected each year. See: <http://exchanges.state.gov/academicexchanges/students.html>