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UNIVERSITY CENTERS FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT (UCCD)

USAID is establishing 46 University Centers for Career Development at 34 universities to provide students and recent graduates with career mentoring services, marketable skills, English language training, private sector networking, internships, and, ultimately, jobs. Career guidance and training ensure that university graduates can more effectively transition to employment. These centers include specialized support for students with disabilities and will serve more than 70 percent of public university students in Egypt.

The concept of career development and guidance counseling, relatively new to the Egyptian higher education system, is driven by deep engagement and connection to the private sector. Career centers have quickly created a network of local private industry representatives to inform target skills for entry-level professionals. The training and curriculum offered by each center is built around these priority skill areas. The Career Center project is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Implementing Partner: The American University in Cairo; Life of Project: September 2017 – September 2026; Governorates: Alexandria, Assiut, Aswan, Beni Suef, Cairo, Dakahlia, Damietta, Fayoum, Gharbia, Giza, Ismailia, Kafr El Sheikh, Luxor, Matrouh, Menoufia, Minya, New Valley, North Sinai, Port Said, Qalyubia, Qena, Sharqia, Sohag, South Sinai, and Suez.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Establish 46 self-sustaining career centers at 27 public universities, 3 technical universities and 4 not-for-profit international universities throughout Egypt
- Improve job prospects of students and alumni by providing specialized training and career mentoring as well as linking students to networking and employment opportunities
- Develop students' and graduates' job-seeking skills to strengthen lifelong career prospects
- Promote lasting relationships between universities and external stakeholders in industry, business, the nonprofit sector, and civil society
- Establish systems to analyze labor market trends and track employment outcomes for program participants

RESULTS (till December 2023)

- Launched 29 University Centers for Career Development at 21 public universities across 18 governorates; the centers employ 158 staff and are a sustainable and integral part of their host universities
- Provided 363,718 services (60% female) such as career development workshops, information sessions, individualized career advising sessions, and training such as employability skills development, entrepreneurship, and English language
- Provided 38,689 students with employability skills development training.
- Provided 58,758 students with one of the technical tracks provided by the project, such as sales, technical writing, quality control, human resources, etc. *(This number is not a unique count and may include duplicates)*
- Provided 11,358 students with English language courses.
- Provided 98,962 students with career development workshops on the topics of resume writing, job interviews, job search, and career planning. *(This number is not a unique count and may include duplicates)*
- Provided 23,679 students with one-one-one career advising sessions. *(This number is not unique and may include duplicates)*
- Connected students and graduates with more than 29,392 job and internship opportunities
- 107 staff members have completed all parts of the Facilitating Career Development program.
- Supported 114 staff members to analyze and disseminate labor market information, with a focus on designing and conducting Egypt's first-ever enterprise surveys and employer round table meetings; these were attended by more than 100 private sector organizations from sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, education, medical services, banking, engineering, and real estate
- Trained 106 staff members in disability equality, access, and rights in order to serve students with disabilities and offer inclusive career services effectively.
- Facilitated employer-run information sessions, workshops, and seminars attended by more than 58,719 students (this number is not unique and contains duplicates).
- Hosted four Career Fair Expos linking over 2,500 students and graduates with employers from sectors including banking, finance, education, transportation, real estate development, and energy.
- Established linkages with more than 120 private sector entities through conducting 64 roundtable meetings organized by the UCCDs and also through implementing enterprise surveys with companies from all sectors in Egypt, such as banking, healthcare, construction, agriculture, manufacturing, real estate, etc.
- 16 UCCDs at ten universities (Ainshams, Alexandria, Aswan, Beni Suef, Mansoura, Menoufia, Minia, Sohag, Sadat City, and Zagazig) have graduated from the project and are currently operating at their respective universities.