

U.S. GOVERNMENT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA



For a Better Future

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MEPI Partner Handicap International Concluded a Highly Successful Programming in Tunisia

Please join us in congratulating Handicap International for their successful project on “Leadership and Empowerment for Action on Disability” (LEAD). Over the past two years HI and its Tunisian partner “Organisation Tunisienne de Défense des Droits des Personnes Handicapées” (OTDDPH) have supported Tunisian organizations’ advocacy to increase the participation of people with disabilities in the democratic process, beginning with the constitutional drafting process and in the lead up to the legislative and presidential elections.

With MEPI support, HI and OTDDPH collaborated with the ISIE in each step of the elections process: OTDDPH’s elections committee conducted public awareness campaigns targeting disabled people during the registration period and assessed the accessibility voting centers. Voter edu-

cation initiatives were led by community leaders in all 24 governorates and multi-media information campaigns reached out to disabled people throughout the country.

Another notable outcome of the advocacy efforts is the signing of a National Charter of Rights of disabled people by 11 Tunisian political parties elected in the new Deputies Assembly and by the new president. In December 2014, HI held the LEAD project closing event Hammamet, which convened over 120 disability rights activists from Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. It provided an opportunity for PWD organizations to engage and public authorities to share their experiences on human rights and advocacy efforts and establish a platform for collective efforts to advance equal rights for disabled people across the Mediterranean region.



Maghrebi Representatives Attending LEAD Closure Seminar in Hammamet (December 5-7, 2014)

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A Young Tunisian Entrepreneur, Embassy Partner Beneficiary, Recycling Computer Equipment

Ata Taieb, a young entrepreneur from Kairouan in Central West Tunisia participated in the pilot phase of “Souk At-tanmia”. Souk At-tanmia is supported by the U.S. Embassy-supported public private partnership initiative to support startup businesses. After his participation, Taieb launched GREEN TIC, a recycling business for computer equipment.



Ata Taieb Receiving the Prize

© Souk At-tanmia

GREEN TIC collects used computer equipment and other electronic parts to recycle, recover, repair or sell them. It currently employs four people including Taieb himself.

The company already has more than 30 customers and partners in several regions including Kairouan, Sousse, Sfax, Medenine, and Tunis.

Thanks to the environmental impact of his project and his motivation and dedication, Taieb won “The Best Idea” award from the “Andi fekra” (I have an idea), an initiative promoting entrepreneurship in Tunisia.

Taieb received a 20,000-dinar prize to help him expand his business.

Site Visit to a MEPI Partner in Sfax to Meet with Beneficiaries

MEPI Administrator, Hind Houas conducted a site visit to the Association of Continuity of Generations (ACG) in Sfax on January 25. Through its project “Personal Development of Tunisian Young Graduates,” ACG seeks to train and support 100 vulnerable Tunisian graduates (50 women and 50 men) from Sfax and its suburbs in communication, organization and management, capacity building, and human rights.

This personal development will enhance their social and professional integration. The program combines technological education, professional development skills training, and personal mentoring. It also instills a spirit of volunteerism and civic service.

During the visit, Mrs. Houas introduced beneficiaries to MEPI exchange programs and the request for application for the local grants and encouraged them to apply.



MEPI Administrator Interacting with ACG Beneficiaries

© ACG

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On the Web soon!

<http://tunisia.usembassy.gov/>

Since the January 2011 revolution, the United States has provided approximately \$550 million to support Tunisia's transition, focusing on technical and financial assistance to Tunisia's economic growth, support for peace and stability, and support for civil society and democratic practices. The U.S. Government plans to allocate more than \$60 million in Fiscal Year 2014 funding, building on assistance programs initiated after the revolution.

