

Hands Along the Nile Development Services (HANDS)

is pleased to announce an invitation for applications for
**The Professional Fellows Program between Egypt,
Tunisia, Morocco, and the U.S.**

This program is funded by
**The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural
Exchanges**

Funded by the U.S. Department of State, this program seeks applicants for a **two-way exchange program that will focus on nongovernmental organization (NGO) development for professionals working in the field of improving the status of women.**

Selected participants will take part in a US-based exchange program from **October 17 to November 18, 2016** in the greater Washington, D.C. area, Pennsylvania, or Seattle, WA. They will also attend the three-day Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, D.C., where they will be able to meet fellow participants from around the world. After the completion of the US-based program, participants will continue their involvement with an exchange program in Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia in winter of 2016/2017, when they and their organizations will work with American exchange participants to build on activities conducted and continue collaborating on initiatives begun during the Chicago and Seattle programs.

HANDS invites qualified professionals from Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco who are currently working for registered local NGO to promote the empowerment, better quality of life and inclusion of women to apply.

During the US-based exchange, selected applicants will participate in:

1. **Fellowship posts** with a counterpart organization in either Chicago or Seattle in order to collaborate with American colleagues and learn about their areas of activity;
2. **Seminars and training** to strengthen participants' leadership capacity and to develop their understanding of American NGOs and how they have been used to improve the lives of women;
3. **Visits and networking opportunities** with relevant organizations and institutions;
4. **Participation in the Professional Fellows Congress** in Washington, D.C. at the end of the fellowship, which will provide opportunities to meet other professional exchange program participants sponsored by the Department of State and network with potential partners and counterpart institutions and individuals;
5. **Cultural experiences** that will build positive relationships between Egyptians, Moroccans, Tunisians, and Americans, including opportunities for sightseeing and touring.

All travel, accommodation and food costs for participants will be covered by the program, as well as local transportation costs and fees for educational and cultural visits.

The program will also provide participants with **health insurance and a J-1 visa** to travel to the US.

Program Schedule

October 17 to November 14, 2016: Exchange program in the Washington, D.C. area, Pennsylvania, or Seattle, WA

November 15 to November 18, 2016: Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, D.C.

Winter 2016/2017: Exchange programs in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia (exact dates to be determined)

Eligibility Criteria

This program aims to strengthen the leadership capacity and skills of mid-level **NGO professionals from Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt who are working to promote the empowerment and inclusion of women in their societies.**

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

Age: Applicants must be between the ages of 25 and 40.

Education: Candidates should have completed university level education.

English language: English proficiency is mandatory. Participants should have very strong English reading, writing, and speaking skills. The application and interview will be in English and applicants' language ability will be assessed accordingly.

Professional experience: Prospective participants should have at least three years of demonstrated involvement with activities promoting the empowerment of women in their societies, as well as an interest in employing new mechanisms to advance such work and be affiliated with registered NGO in their country.

Dedication to and soundness of plans for the future: Candidates must demonstrate long-term thoughtfulness about the inclusion and participation of women in their societies. The application will ask candidates to answer essay questions showing their understanding of the importance of the empowerment of women, their own plans for addressing this issue after the exchange, and an awareness of the current challenges of promoting such activities, as well as the replicable successes already achieved in their home country.

Recommendations: Applicants must be able to supply two letters of recommendation.

Long-term commitment to the program that extends beyond the official end-date.

Passport: Applicants must possess a valid passport for travel with an expiration date that does not fall before the dates of required travel

Instructions for Application

Interested candidates must submit the following documents in English to apply:

1. **Completed application form** (including all essay questions)
2. **Resume/CV**
3. **Two letters of recommendation**

The deadline to apply is June 1, 2016

Interested candidates can download the application form from HANDS' website at <http://www.handsalongthenile.org/causes/prospective-professional-fellows/>

Tunisian applicants can also download the application from the website of the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research: www.cawtar.org

HANDS is a US-based non-governmental organization dedicated to building bridges of partnership and cooperation between America and the Middle East. For more information about HANDS, please visit our website at www.handsalongthenile.org.