



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Community Support Program in Lebanon

May 2022

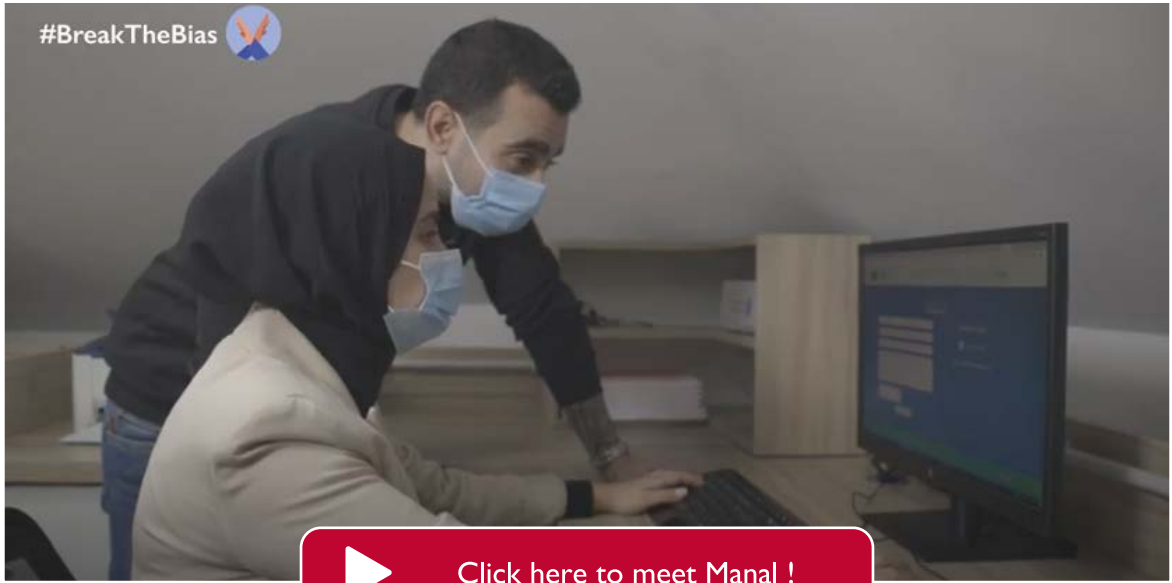
CSP Celebrates International Women's Month: Inspiring Women who Are #BreakingTheBias.

Lebanon's multifaceted crisis is happening within a context of deep structural inequalities. In fact, the country has one of the highest overall gender gaps in the world (ranking 145 out of 153 in the World Economic Forum Gender Gap Report 2020), and amongst the lowest rates of women's labor market participation, hovering at 29% for women and 76% for men. To address this issue, gender equality and the empowerment of women has been central to the implementation of CSP's activities. In celebration of this year's International Women's Month, we invite you to have a look at these inspiring Lebanese women CSP is working with who fought against the odds and broke the bias.

A recent graduate in computer science at the Lebanese-American University, Manal Diab participated in CSP's internship program as a web developer in direct support of the Municipality of El Qraiye in Southern Lebanon. During her internship, Manal redesigned the municipality's website to promote its newly established community market space that was enabled through USAID's provision of kiosks, tents, latrines, and benches, as well as municipal capacity building on public event and space management. Following her internship, Manal received her first job offer in an IT firm, a sector very much dominated by men. "It was very difficult at first as it seemed that my colleagues wouldn't take me seriously as a woman," she said as she admitted that she was close to quitting her job soon after joining. Manal did not give up easily though and committed to giving it her best despite the adversity she was facing in the workplace. Her efforts quickly paid off: as a result of her outstanding performance, Manal's salary in her current position doubled by the second month and has been steadily increasing since. Manal views her job as a "stepping stone" towards her wider ambition of starting her own female-run business, where she aims to provide web design services to a broad client base.



Photo: Manal Diab, with the website she designed for the Municipality of El Qraiye as part of her internship with CSP.



#BreakTheBias



▶ Click here to meet Manal !

Nadine Kanaan
Project Manager and Civil and Hydro-sciences Engineer at Earth Link and Advanced Resources Development (ELARD) - CSP subcontractor

"Even though women are underrepresented in the field of engineering, I decided to specialize in that field and become an engineer. I worked hard to enhance my skills, challenged myself, and proved that anyone can excel in any field, regardless of gender, if driven by passion and hard work. Throughout my six years working at ELARD, I have conducted different types of tasks and various field assessments, alongside my male colleagues. Nothing is impossible when we set our mind on something."

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Santa
Mother of four and CSP scholarship recipient studying nursing at Al-Abr Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institute

"Earning my degree will really support my career development. My dream is to become a full-time nurse and be able to better support my family during these difficult times"

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Ola Mehieddine
Agriculture Engineer and Manager at Cooperation Without Borders - CSP beneficiary NGO

"Every woman should challenge stereotypes imposed by societies and break the bias. As a mother and agriculture engineer, I chose to reject traditional roles and face challenges. I realize the importance of women like me who not only support their families, but also set an example for the generations to come, who hopefully, will be more tolerant and more inclusive towards women."

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CSP Launches Awareness Campaign on Domestic Wastewater Management in 22 Supermarket Branches Across Lebanon



On World Water Day (March 22, 2022), CSP launched an awareness campaign on domestic wastewater management in collaboration with local supermarket chain 'Tawfeer'. This is in line with CSP's mission under its wastewater management component to engage the private sector and local communities in educating and involving citizens to enhance the Regional Water Establishments' abilities to manage wastewater in their areas of operation. This in turn improves community sanitation, public health, economic development, and environmental protection. The campaign was ongoing until April 22, and included social media messages, giveaway competitions, in-person wastewater related activities for children across the supermarket, as well as the display of awareness-raising posters and banners across Tawfeer's 22 branches in Lebanon.

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Tawfeer MARKET
هل تعلم؟
تشكل المياه الغير نظيفة مخاطر صحية كبيرة، حيث تتسبب في 1.7 مليون حالة وفاة سنويا، أكثر من 90% منها في البلدان النامية.
#التوفير_للتغيير

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
Tawfeer MARKET
• Use only soil-harmless and biodegradable products
• Utilize groundwater as efficiently as possible
What we do on the surface matters underground
#التوفير_للتغيير

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
Tawfeer MARKET
Keep seas, rivers, and lakes clean.
Make sure not to discard any form of waste in them.
The responsible citizen
#التوفير_للتغيير

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
Tawfeer MARKET
Verify
that your wastewater network is connected to wastewater treatment plants!
Globally over 80% of wastewater is discharged without adequate treatment. In Lebanon, this percentage is about 90%.
#التوفير_للتغيير

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
Tawfeer MARKET
المياه الجوفية لا تظهر للعيان، ولكن تلوثها يظهر في كل مكان، من مياه الشرب والصرف الصحي إلى إمداداتنا الغذائية وبيئتنا الطبيعية - كل جوانب حياتنا تعتمد على المياه الجوفية.
#التوفير_للتغيير

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
Tawfeer MARKET
هل تعلم؟
هناك فرص هائلة لاستغلال مياه الصرف المعالجة عبر إعادة استعمالها.
#التوفير_للتغيير

CSP Promotes Benefits of Technical and Vocational Education on Several Local News Outlets



Photo: (From left to right): CSP's Scholarship Director, WFD Director and a representative from one of CSP's private partner businesses hosted on Tele Liban, March 24, 2022.

On March 20, 2022, the Director of CSP's workforce development (WFD) component participated in a televised interview, along with the Director of CSP's partner TVET Al Abir Technical Institute, on Al Jadeed Channel's morning show 'Sabah Al Yawm'. The interview focused on disseminating positive messages to improve the public perceptions on the TVET sector in Lebanon, showcasing CSP's WFD interventions and highlighting the collaborative efforts among various agencies and stakeholders towards upgrading TVET in Lebanon.

On March 24, CSP's WFD Director, Scholarship Director, and representative from one of CSP's private partner businesses were hosted at a second televised interview at Tele Liban

And on April 3, CSP was hosted on MTV's 'Alive' morning show and Mariam TV's 'Round Up' segment on April 6 to discuss the same talking points.

These interactions with the local media are a part of CSP's three-month national media campaign which is being implemented in coordination with multiple experts and strategic stakeholders and which aims to ameliorate the negative public perceptions of the technical and vocational education sector in Lebanon.

Click on each channel to watch the interview!

[Al Jadeed](#)

[Tele Liban](#)

[MTV Lebanon](#)

[Mariam TV](#)

Water Tank in Talia Nears Completion! (Beqaa)

“The intervention by USAID/CSP to build a new water tower for the village is addressing our community’s most pressing need. It will not only grant us regular access to water again, but will allow us to relocate our limited resources to other essentials” stated Nicolas Al Kfoury, local resident and shop owner.

Talia, a town in Beqaa and home to around 2,500 Lebanese residents and 2,000 Syrian refugees, has long been struggling with severe water shortages. The existing water network was designed in 1970s for a much smaller population, and the village’s current 50m³ water tank is outdated and unusable. Residents’ tanks currently get partially refilled when the municipality runs its generator (about an hour each day), which remains far from enough to cover the town’s needs. Many are forced to rely on purchasing water from trucks which, amidst the current socio-economic crisis, has become increasingly unaffordable. In response, CSP is constructing a new elevated water tank with 300m³ capacity and rehabilitating its operation room, including the electrical, mechanical, and chlorination systems. After experiencing some delays associated with poor weather conditions during the winter season, by early April 2022, CSP had achieved 90% progress on the works, having completed the tank’s 25-meter columns, core walls and beams, and steel reinforcement. The structure is expected to be completed during August 2022, in time for the summer season when water scarcity is at its highest.



Photo: USAID/CSP’s ongoing construction works of a 300m³ elevated water tank in Talia (Beqaa) to enhance water provision to 4,500 residents and reduce their financial burden of purchasing water amidst the economic crisis.

Farmers in Ainata el Arz Agricultural Cooperative Open Growing Season with CSP-Provided Equipment (Beqaa)



“This morning, thanks to the new electric shears, I managed to prune four rows of trees, whereas previously it would have taken me a whole day to do a single row!” stated Fawzi Rahme, farmer and member of Ainata cooperative – March 2022

In late March 2022, as the snow receded to make way for apricot tree blossoms, the farmers in Ainata El Arz kicked off this year’s harvest season, making use of the equipment donated by USAID’s CSP. Known for its cultivation of apples, cherries, apricots and grapes, Ainata is a remote agricultural village located at an altitude of 1,500 meters, which regularly faces harsh weather conditions that threaten local crops and place significant importance on the timely pruning and cultivation process. Although the village has established a cooperative to improve farming practices and enhance local livelihood opportunities, amidst the worsening socio-economic conditions in Lebanon, farmers have been facing rising costs of production coupled with diminished incomes. Back in 2021, to support farmers’ livelihoods, CSP provided the cooperative with ten electric pruning shears, five semi-automatic rotary tillers, two wood shredders, and two trailers, as well as a solar-powered welding station to repair irrigation lines. “The equipment provided by USAID/CSP has made farming easier for us,” stated Rawad Rahme, Head of Ainata COOP, “farmers are returning to their lands and our community’s youth are choosing to stay here to work.”



USAID/CSP Celebrates 24 University Scholarship Program (USP) Students Who Completed Their Internships at CSP



“As a fresh graduate, I had concerns about my career path as it was difficult to gain the practical experience to attract employers. My internship with CSP provided an incredible opportunity to open so many doors. In fact, I recently received a job offer thanks to the experience I gained with CSP. Being surrounded by an outstanding team was a life changing privilege” said Maroun Haykal, student in Business Management at the Lebanese-American University (LAU).

On February 22, 2022, CSP celebrated the completion of the internships of 24 USP students from the American University of Beirut (AUB) and LAU. The ceremony was held in presence of the U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Richard Michaels, USAID Mission Director Mary Eileen Devitt, USAID Local Development Office Director Claude Zullo, representatives from AUB and LAU, and included the virtual participation of municipality representatives and students’ families. During the event, students shared the impact of the program on their career path and skills they had acquired through a video and discussion session with DCM Michaels and USAID representatives.



[Click here to meet few of CSP's interns who completed their internship in February 2022](#)

Within the framework of its collaboration with the USAID-funded USP, CSP provides internships to Lebanese students to enhance their future employment opportunities by gaining hands-on experience assisting in the implementation of CSP activities.

Photo: USAID's CSP/USP cohort 2 Internship Completion ceremony, February 22, 2022