

LOTUS Scholarship Program
Cooperative Agreement 263-A-00-10-00026-00

Combined Quarterly Report
FY 2010, Quarters 3 & 4

IIE/MENA was awarded the New Scholarship Program (renamed LOTUS Scholarship Program) on May 4, 2010. During the period of May 4 – September 30, 2010, IIE successfully mobilized the LOTUS Scholarship Program and recruited and enrolled the first cohort of students.

Task 0: Program Start-up and Management

	Task	Status as of September 30, 2010
0.1	Finalize SOW and legal service agreements for partner NGOs and universities	AFS/Egypt & E-era service agreements completed Partner university agreements under review NM agreement in progress
0.2	Staffing of all IIE and partner positions	IIE and university coordinator positions staffed
0.3	Branding Strategy and Marking Plan Developed	BSMP submitted and approved by USAID
0.4	NGO recruitment partner planning meetings and mobilization	Completed
0.5	University partner planning meetings and preparation for fall placements	Completed
0.6	Complete Annual Work Plan for year 1	In progress
0.7	Develop a program logo, website and program description materials	Completed
0.8	Develop cost share guidelines/forms; orient all partners	Completed

Task 1: LOTUS Scholarship Recruitment, Selection & Placement

	Task	Status as of September 30, 2010	Cohort II
1.1	Develop common Lotus Scholarship Program materials to be used by LOTUS partner NGOs to recruit and select scholarship recipients	Completed	Planned: FY 2011, Quarters 1 & 2
1.2	Orientation of the public to the LOTUS Scholarship Program and recruitment of potential LOTUS candidates will include:	Completed	Planned: FY 2011, Quarters 2 & 3
1.3	<u>General Recruitment Procedures</u> to identify LOTUS Student candidates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place two national newspaper advertisements • Launch nation-wide governorate-level outreach and recruitment • Maintain contact with local governorate offices to enable them to support the outreach and respond to requests • Create LOTUS program web-site page with links to PDF program description and applications 	Completed Completed Completed through NGOs Completed	Planned: FY 2011, Quarters 2 & 3

1.4	<p><u>General Selection Procedures</u> to select 100 LOTUS Students will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review LOTUS Scholarship Applications and develop a shortlist of the top 300 candidates to be interviewed • Conduct home visits on all eligible candidates to verify personal and financial information • Hold interview camps for short-listed candidates to select as many primary and alternate candidates as possible • Review application, home visit and interview scores and finalize decisions 	<p>Completed - 346 applications received Completed - 254 eligible applications reviewed</p> <p>Completed - 245 home visits conducted</p> <p>Completed - two 2-day interview camps held, 115 candidates interviewed</p> <p>Completed</p>	Planned: FY 2011, Quarters 3 & 4
1.5	<p><u>General Placement Procedures</u> to place 100 LOTUS Students in partner universities in their chosen fields of study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit names to USAID for approval and inform LOTUS Scholar candidates of acceptance. • Work with 5 university coordinators to place the candidates into each university and ensure all academic and financial requirements are met. • Approach alternate candidates as it becomes clear that some candidates do not pass all of their first year university exams and/or decline the scholarship. 	<p>Completed – 47 candidates submitted</p> <p>Completed – 45 students placed / 44 students enrolled</p> <p>Completed</p>	Planned: FY 2011, Quarter 4

Selection Statistics:

- **Financial need breakdown** of 47 short-listed candidates was as follows:
 - 32% are from IIE's lowest 2 quintiles (i.e. highest financial need) for financial need.
 - 68% (top 3 quintiles) of scholarship recipients are from families with a total monthly income less than LE 2,500 & with limited collateral assets.
 - 91% (top 4 quintiles) of scholarship recipients are from families with a total monthly of less than LE 4,500 with limited or some collateral assets.
- **Gender and Governorate breakdown** of 44 students who signed scholarship terms and conditions and were enrolled in partner universities is as follows
 - 27 females and 17 males
 - 23 governorates represented (missing governorates: Assiut, Beheira, New Valley, Qaliyoubia. South Sinai, and Suez)

University Placements:

- 44 students were placed and enrolled at the five partner universities as follows:
 - Al Ahram Canadian University - 9
 - British University in Egypt – 11
 - Future University in Egypt - 7
 - Modern Sciences and Arts University - 9
 - Pharos University – 8

- Fields of Specialization are as follows:
 - Accounting & Finance - 3
 - Business Admin. - 2
 - Dentistry - 5
 - Engineering - 16
 - Informatics & Computers - 3
 - International Business - 1
 - Languages & Translation - 1
 - Mass Communications - 2
 - Pharmacy - 9
 - Political Science – 2

Task 2: LOTUS Scholar Academic and Personal Support

	Task	Status as of September 30, 2010
2.1	Develop agreements and procedures with the five universities to host LOTUS Students and pay university coordinators.	Drafted agreements, under review
2.2	Develop a LOTUS Program terms and conditions agreement for signature by each LOTUS Student and a parent or guardian.	Completed and signed
2.2	Ensure adequate student housing and personal space needs are in place for each LOTUS Student	Completed
2.3	Procure laptop computers and software for LOTUS Students, along with other settling-in supplies and school materials to be distributed.	Initiated procurement - purchase in process Purchased and distributed settling in supplies
2.4	Develop orientation kits and materials.	Conducted sessions including Q&A
2.5	Hold orientation sessions and team building workshop for all LOTUS Students in coordination with each partner university.	Completed in groups
2.6	Conduct occasional meetings with LOTUS Scholars at the University and program levels	Held multiple formal and informal sessions/meetings at each university
2.7	Provide supplemental English training and tutoring as needed	Enrolled 8 students at PUA in supplemental English courses at AmidEast
2.8	Provide occasional sessions to encourage and support LOTUS Students to be effective students and adults – on topics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research skills - Time management - PowerPoint skills - Computer Skills - Note & exam taking - Academic writing skills - Academic integrity - Personal budgeting 	Anticipated start: FY 2011, Quarter 1 and continue through Quarters 2 & 3
2.9	All LOTUS Students take the TOEFL exam during their first semester to gauge initial English language proficiency and to monitor progress	Planned: FY 2011, Quarter 1

Task 3: Leadership in Action Program

	Task	Status as of September 30, 2010
3.1	Develop Leadership in Action Program design and first year materials and handouts in coordination with partner NGO Nahdet Mahrousa.	Anticipated: FY 2011, Quarters 2, 3 & 4
3.2	Orientation to the Leadership in Action Program conducted for LOTUS Students	Planned: FY 2011, Quarter 2

3.3	Leadership in Action Program sessions delivered by IIE staff and facilitators.	Anticipated start: FY 2011, Quarter 2
3.4	Leadership Program components delivered by Nahdet Mahrousa : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tolerance & Diversity • Innovation • Sustainable Development • Know your Country • Quarterly Leadership Sessions 	Anticipated start: FY 2011, Quarters 3 & 4
3.5	Coordinate community service learning activities	Anticipated: FY 2011, Quarter 3
3.6	Annual Leadership Workshop	Planned: FY 2011, Quarter 3

Task 6: Leadership Capacity Building for Universities

	Task	Status as of September 30, 2010
6.1	Develop first of three two-day modules	Planned: FY 2011, Quarters 2 & 3
6.2	Deliver workshop #1 to all universities	Anticipated: FY 2011, Quarter 4
6.3	Deliver workshop #2 to all universities	
6.4	Deliver workshop #3 to all universities	
6.5	Invite university leaders to participate in Leadership in Action activities	Planned: FY 2011, Quarter 2

Task 7: Communications, Monitoring and Reporting

	Task	Status as of September 30, 2010
7.1	Website design and launch	Completed
7.2	Set-up Program Wiki and other communications systems	Planned: FY 2011, Quarters 2 & 3
7.3	Develop Evaluation Criteria and Impact Indicators (M&E Plan) for USAID approval	Planned: FY 2011, Quarter 1
7.4	Identify the control group of students and plan for annual assessments	Planned: FY 2011, Quarters 3 & 4
7.4	Submit Quarterly and Annual Reports on schedule	On-going
7.5	Produce LOTUS Scholarship Program highlights and PR documents	On-going

During this reporting period, the following **challenges** were faced:

- **Time:** The award was made on May 4, 2010 which required immediate start-up and mobilization and very intense outreach and recruitment, review, and selection phases of the Program in order to place students in the partner universities by beginning of September 2010. Outreach activities took place during the thanaweya amma exams and the deadline for applications was the week after exams, which presented many challenges. The next recruitment cycle will be planned for early spring 2011 to avoid this challenge.
- **Outreach:** We needed a longer period of time to conduct outreach particularly in some of the more remote and/or conservative governorates.
- **Gap Year:** The 2009/10 school year was the gap year, which resulted in a thanawiyya amma graduating class that was approximately 10% of the usual size. Many of the students in third secondary were repeating the year for various reasons. The result was a very small pool of eligible graduates.

- First year university students: We were challenged to conduct outreach to first year university students for a variety of reasons: classes were finished and students were not attending university, universities refused to allow us to post the opportunity for scholarships at private universities, etc. Once students applied and were short-listed, many of our top-ranked first year university candidates received grades less than “maqbool” in one or more subjects, which rendered them ineligible.
- Delayed exam results – We faced many challenges in obtaining exam results for both thanawiyya and first year university students, which resulted in delayed review and short listing processes.
- Start date for universities: in late August, the Minister of Higher Education decreed that all universities including private should start on September 18, which was two weeks earlier than originally scheduled. This necessitated a very quick turn around for placements, orientation sessions, procurement of laptops, settling-in activities/allowances, payments, etc.
- Change in MOHE policies: we learned that the MOHE decided that students may no longer be registered in two universities at the same time, which meant that those students who were transferring from public to private universities were required to withdraw their files from their old universities. One student left the Program as a result.
- Smaller cohort: A smaller cohort for AY 2010/11 has presented some logistical challenges for orientation and Leadership in Action activities. Our original plan was to have groups of 20 students at each of the five universities, which would allow us to do concurrent sessions at each university. The current cohort consists of 44 students with 7 – 11 students at each university, which is too small of a number for the type of interactive sessions that we do. As such, we are grouping the students together for sessions, which is more cost-effective, but presents a variety of scheduling and logistical (venue, transportation, etc.) challenges.

FY 2011, Quarter 1 Activities:

In addition to the activities identified in the table above, the following activities will take place in FY 2011, Quarter 1:

- Official Launch of LOTUS Scholarship Program: November, 4, 2010
- Baseline survey of volunteer work done by each student during the period of September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2010