

The Impact of Democracy: Program Visit to Morocco June 6-11, 2012



In the wake of the Arab Spring, the Middle East and North Africa has undergone unparalleled political transformation. NDI supports a wide range of programs in North Africa, from political party strengthening and women's political participation to civil society development and election observation. Join NDI as we travel to Morocco, where the ruling monarchy has maintained political stability by introducing new power-sharing reforms in the last year. In Morocco, NDI has worked to increase the responsiveness of political parties to citizens' needs, strengthen parliament and expand political participation for women and youth since 1997. This ancient kingdom, with its unique mix of the modern and the traditional, provides the ideal setting to witness NDI's work in the region firsthand, particularly as the country prepares for local elections in June 2012.

Illustrative Itinerary

June 6: Arrive in Casablanca, Morocco's commercial hub, in the afternoon and drive to the capital, Rabat. Upon arrival, meet with NDI staff for a traditional Moroccan dinner and receive a briefing on political changes occurring in Morocco and the region, as well as NDI programs in the country.

June 7: In the morning, meet with senior Moroccan political party leaders and government ministers, visit parliament and meet with senior figures in local human rights organizations. Enjoy lunch with NDI staff in Rabat before heading to a national youth leadership conference sponsored by NDI. At the event, meet young leaders, including the organizers of 2011's unprecedented nationwide demonstrations. In the evening, attend a reception with the U.S. ambassador to Morocco and high-level Moroccan officials.

June 8: After breakfast, drive from Rabat to Meknes, touring Roman ruins and lunching in the Imperial City. In the afternoon, meet with local leaders, including a number of women elected to office for the first time in 2009.

June 9: In the morning, travel to the ancient city of Fes, for centuries the country's most important cultural hub. Witness an NDI-sponsored seminar for women political party activists and meet with dynamic political leaders from the region. Have lunch with a group of young party leaders and then set off to explore the old city of Fes. Enjoy a walking tour of the maze-like quarters that make up the walled city and explore covered markets, ancient religious sites and Fes's renowned imperial gates.

June 10: During the day, meet local representatives of an election monitoring coalition and visit a rural women's cooperative producing traditional goods from the nearby mountains. In the evening, enjoy a relaxing dinner overlooking the majestic old city.

June 11: Return to Casablanca and depart for the U.S.

All travel arrangements and logistics will be handled by NDI. Participants are responsible for travel costs. Please contact Meghan Meyers for more information at (202)728-5526 or mmeyers@ndi.org