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Dr. Elie Abouaoun is the director of the U.S. Institute of Peace Middle East and North Africa Programs based in Tunis, Tunisia. He joined USIP after serving as the executive director of the Arab Human Rights Fund. Prior to this, he was the acting country director and program manager of the Danish Refugee Council in Iraq. Dr. Abouaoun has been a visiting lecturer at Saint Joseph University-Lebanon on human rights, civil society, advocacy, and citizenship. He regularly contributes to publications throughout the Middle East & North Africa region and the United States. He holds a master's in business administration and management and is a doctor of dental surgery.