



USAID | **IRAQ**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

WEEKLY REPORT #70

March 10 – March 16, 2012

March, 2012

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by ARD, Inc., through its operating unit Tetra Tech DPK.

Contract: 267-C-00-10-00006-00



USAID | **IRAQ**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

WEEKLY REPORT #70

March 10 – March 16, 2012

DISCLAIMER

The author's views in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

COMPONENT 1 - IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE OF LEGAL REMEDIES

Result 1.3: Practical knowledge of vulnerable populations of how to access and use tools improved through traditional and social media

Component 1 briefed representatives of 7 Baghdad NGOs on A2J program expectations, awareness raising objectives, the grants process, and guidelines for completing Grant Summary Forms. The NGO Directorate, who linked A2J with Baghdad NGOs who work with widows and orphans, was represented at the briefing by Hashim Basil, Deputy Director of the NGO Directorate. He explained the importance of effective awareness raising campaigns. The NGOs will submit Grant Summary Forms for approval within the next 10 days and attend the A2J RFA training on March 18-19.



C1 met with 4 NGOs shortlisted to work on awareness-raising campaigns for the Ministry of Human Rights to discuss their proposal ideas and assist them in developing Grant Summary Forms.



Result 1.4: Effective Monitoring and Evaluation of Implementing Partner Public Awareness Campaigns

C1 reviewed draft poster and brochure designs from Iraqi Alliance of Disability (IADO). The team explained that the brochures should contain information from relevant articles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. IADO agreed to the additions and will present new designs for approval next week.





Weekly Update of Awareness Campaigns

#	Grantee	Quantity of Print	Distributed	Radio / TV / Web	Awareness Trainings
1	Iraqi Al-Mortaqa Foundation for Human Development	8 Banners	8 Banners	N/A	4
2	Fatema House Charity Women	5 Banners	5 Banners	0	52 (3)
		1200 Brochure	1190 Brochures (65)		
		2000 Plastic Bags with Advertising (Contribution)	2000 Plastic Bags with Ads (Contribution)		
3	Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid	5250 Brochures	5250 Brochures	60 Radio Adv.	40
		2650 Posters	2650 Posters	60 TV Adv.	
4	Al-Malak Human Organization	2000 Posters	2000 Posters	16 Live Radio Programs	16
		3000 Booklets	3000 Booklets		
		3 Banners	3 Banners		
		6000 Adv. in Magazine	4550 Adv. in Magazine (250)		
5	College of Law and Politics, University of Salahaddin	0	0	0	1
6	Women Empowerment Organization	2 Banner	2 Banner	10 Live Radio Programs	44
		Handout 1000	Brochure 404 (70)	TV Ad. 1	
		Booklet 500 (500)	Booklet 50 (50)		
7	Salam Al-Rafidain Organization	26 Banners	26 Banners	N/A	20
		1500 Business Cards	1460 Business Cards (35)		
8	Al-Rahma Humanity Association	300 Handbooks	300 Handbooks	TV: 1 Web: 1	9 (1)
		10 Banners	10 Banners		
		3000 Brochures	2925 Brochures (75)		
9	Al-Shabk Women Association	5000 Posters	5000 Posters	8 Radio Advertisements Web: 1	8
		4000 Brochures	4000 Brochures		
		Announcement in the Al-Yaqeen newspaper about the project			
10	Kurdish Human Rights Watch	4000 Booklets	4000 Booklets	Web: 16 Adv. (16) Radio: 6	6
		6 Banners	6 Banners		
11	Soran Association for the Care of the Handicapped (SACH)	1000 Posters	1000 Posters (100)	1 Radio Adv.	3
				6 Live Radio Programs	
12	Iraq Al Amal Association	2000 Brochures	1950 Brochures (50)	12 Live Radio Programs (1)	5
		19 Banners (5)	19 Banners (5)		
13	Women For Justice		n/a	n/a	n/a
14	Baghdad Law School		n/a	n/a	n/a

Note: **Entries in parentheses indicate new additions this week.** Numbers in the above table have not been verified by M&E data collection forms, but are a close approximation for the purposes of communicating accomplishments of grantees within a reasonable margin of error. Verified data will be presented in quarterly reports.

COMPONENT 2 - IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

Result 2.1: Support Iraqi NGOs Working in Priority Access to Justice Areas to Improve their Administrative and Substantive Capacity to Support Vulnerable Populations



C2 held a five-day TOT training on NGO/community based legal clinic best practices from March 13-17, in Erbil. The 23 participants included directors, coordinators, and lawyers from six NGO grantee legal clinics. Technical expertise was provided by Sherizaan Minwalla, who provided in depth instruction through lecture, group discussion, and interactive exercises on quality legal services provision and management and operations of NGO legal clinics. The ERO Regional Director also led exercises and group discussions.



Topics included: focusing a legal services program; organizational development; handling vulnerable populations with sensitivity; legal advocacy techniques; legal defense; informal justice; and managing legal services programs. A2J staff that monitor, mentor, and train NGO legal clinics administering grant-driven programs also attended. The training will be adapted and given to all future A2J funded legal clinics.

The Basrah Regional Office (BRO) met with Al- Firdows Organization to discuss their legal clinic grant proposal. BRO provided technical assistance on needed changes to grant proposals for resubmission to A2J to Al Rawabi Organization, Taqwa Association, and Al Amal Association

**Weekly Update of Legal Assistance to Vulnerable Groups
Provided by Access to Justice Partners (Cumulative and New)**

#	Grantee	Location	Focus of Legal Assistance	# of Hotline Calls	# of Legal Consultations	# of Legal Cases
1	Iraqi Al Amal Association - Najaf Center	Najaf	Women	82(5)	258(16)	156(13)
2	Iraqi Al Amal Association - Kirkuk Center	Kirkuk	Women	131(6)	136(6)	81(0)
3	Fatema House Charity for Women	Baghdad – Sadr City	Women	0		388(15)
4	Al-Rahma Humanity Association	Baghdad - Shaab	Women	116(13)	370(38)	121(7)
5	Women Empowerment Organization	Erbil - Einkawa	Women	75 (2)	83(2)	53(2)
6	Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid	Baghdad - Karrada	IDPs	129(0)	136(0)	114(0)
7	Kurdistan Human Rights Watch	Erbil – Einkawa / Khabat	IDPs	222(3)	274(4)	32(0)
8	Soran Association for Care of the Handicapped	Erbil – Soran	Persons with Disabilities	220(5)	98(1)	20 (1)
9	Salam Al-Rafidain	Baghdad – Yousifiya	Women	117(12)	79(2)	40(8)
10	Al-Malak Human	Ninawa – Mosul	Women	178(4)	133(4)	67(9)



#	Grantee	Location	Focus of Legal Assistance	# of Hotline Calls	# of Legal Consultations	# of Legal Cases
11	Al-Shabak Women's Organization	Ninawa - Bartallah	Women - IDP	329(15)	251(13)	17(0)
13	Women for Justice	Karbala	Women	33(5)	60 (14)	32 (7)

Note: **Entries in parentheses indicate new additions this week.** Numbers in the above table have not been verified by M&E data collection forms, but are a close approximation for the purposes of communicating accomplishments of grantees within a reasonable margin of error. Verified data will be presented in quarterly reports.

Success Story

NB, a 40 year old divorced woman from Al-Yousifiya, Baghdad, has four children, aged six through ten. Her husband took her children when he left the home. NB sought help from Salam Al-Rafidain Women Center to regain custody of her children. The Center obtained a power of attorney and started the legal process. NB's ex-husband was informed by official letter to attend the first court session and as soon as he received the letter hurried to the Center and asked for mediation to reconcile the family. NB accepted the offer, and within a matter of days, she visited the Center stating that she had remarried and asked to register her new marriage contract. The Center lawyer took all necessary documents and registered the new marriage contract.

Result 2.2: Work with Iraqi Legal Professional Associations (Primarily the IBA and Jurist Union and their Subsidiaries) to Increase Administrative and Substantive Capacity for Empowering Lawyers and Other Legal Professionals to Assist Vulnerable or Disadvantaged Populations

A2J met with the Kurdistan Jurists Union (KJU) to discuss ways that A2J can provide assistance with continuing legal education for legal staff in key ministries that support vulnerable populations. The KJU agreed to work with ERO staff and submit a Grant Summary Form.

Result 2.3: Assist the IBA and Other Legal Associations to “Increase the Supply of Lawyers” Assisting Vulnerable or Disadvantaged Populations through Initiatives such as CLE for Lawyers, Pre-service Orientation Training for New Lawyers, and Targeted Training on Assisting Vulnerable Groups

Weekly Update of Training to Lawyers Provided by Access to Justice Partners (Cumulative and New)

#	Grantee	Focus of Lawyer Training	# of Training Sessions	# of Trainees
1	Kurdistan Bar Association	Legal Service Provision to Vulnerable Populations	5	125
2	Iraqi Bar Association	Human Rights Awareness	9	590

Note: **Entries in parentheses indicate new additions this week.** Numbers in the above table have not yet been verified against M&E data collection forms, but are a close approximation for the purposes of communicating accomplishments of grantees within a reasonable margin of error. Data verified by M&E data form documentation will be presented in quarterly reports.



Result 2.4: Support Development of Programs and Modernization of Academic and Practical Curriculum Related to Extending Access to Justice to Vulnerable Populations at Law Schools in Iraqi Universities in Key Locations throughout Iraq

A2J completed a site visit to grantee Baghdad Law School (BLS) legal clinic on Mar. 13th. The team reviewed progress to date, which includes the hiring of a manager, two lawyers, and three other employees. The BLS legal clinic focuses on practical training for students on how to provide legal services to vulnerable populations as well as providing the legal services. Last week, 262 fourth year students began taking a legal clinic course, with a lecture focusing on how to define a vulnerable group. BLS will select 40 students from the class of 262 to work in the legal clinic. To date, the clinic has provided legal consultations to seven people.

Weekly Update of Legal Assistance to Vulnerable Groups Provided by Access to Justice Law School Partners (Cumulative)

#	Grantee	Focus of Legal Assistance	# of Legal Cases	# of Students Participating (Current or Completed) in the Legal Clinic	# of Courses Relevant to Legal Clinical Education	# of Students in Legal Clinical Education Courses
1	Salahaddin Law School (Erbil)	Various	9	80	2(1)	28(13)
2	Baghdad Law School	Various	7	n/a	2(1)	262

Note: **Entries in parentheses indicate new additions this week.** Numbers in the above table have not yet been verified against M&E data collection forms, but are a close approximation for the purposes of communicating accomplishments of grantees within a reasonable margin of error. Data verified by M&E data form documentation will be presented in quarterly reports.

COMPONENT 3 – ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Result 3.1: Support Partners in Reviewing Processes and Procedures for Reform of Policies, Regulations, and Legislation as they Relate to Vulnerable Populations.

A2J held a multi-agency meeting with a member of the Parliament Legal Committee, the Iraq Bar Association, the Shura Council, and the Legal Committee of COMSEC, on consideration of and strategizing for enactment of the Law on Lawyers. Such multi-agency meetings are a rare occurrence. A2J is now preparing a strategy document and planning to meet again with the newly-formed working group to resolve outstanding issues with the draft. This collaboration should speed eventual passage of the law.





Component 3 held the Third Roundtable on Identity (*Jinsiya*) Issues. The purpose was to review the progress that has been made on identity since the recommendations from the First Roundtable on May 25, 2011, and the Second Roundtable on July 25, 2011. Topics included what has gone well and where efforts are still falling short such as the now-shelved effort to create a single identity card, instead of the four that presently exist. Government attendance included members of COMSEC, the Shura Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (which helps with *jinsiya* issues for Iraqis outside of Iraq), and the Higher Judicial Council. Several NGOs also attended and related the ongoing problems they face with identity cases and the continuing challenges. UNAMI also participated.

A2J participated in the Women's Legal Issues Conference sponsored by USAID and the US Consulate General in Basrah. Participants included international donors (IOM, UNHCR, INL and other USAID implementers), members of the Basrah Provincial Council, female lawyers, female judges, and women's rights activists. A2J COP gave an overview of the Program and explained women's rights under Iraqi law. The BRO Director also facilitated and led a follow-up discussion panel which included the topics of the Personal Status Law, the role of social workers in Iraqi courts, and the need to revise the Penal Code and the Personal Status Law.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

A2J received grant approval from USAID for the Iraq Center for Human Rights Activities (ICHRA). The grant is in the amount of \$90,000 for a 12 month-period. ICHRA intends to raise legal awareness for 600 women (divorced and widowed) and provide legal assistance and support to help them to get their benefits. This week also saw the signing of the grant agreement with the Iraq Bar Association.

The ERO held a Request for Applications (RFA) workshop in Erbil on March 11th. Fifteen NGOs participated including 2 from Mosul, 1 from Erbil, 3 from Kirkuk, 4 from Dohuk and 5 from Sulaymaniyah. The potential grantees were informed about the A2J program and how to submit grant applications.



The Grants Evaluation Committee evaluated eight grant proposals for possible funding.

OPERATIONS

After a long and arduous process, the A2J Program is now registered with the Government of Iraq effective March 12, 2012.

Hassan Jabbari, Communications Specialist, resigned effective this week. Preparations are underway to find a replacement candidate.

Calendar of Activities

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
February 25	26	27	28	29	March 1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New Grants Kick-Off meeting, Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New Grantee Training on Financial Management, Procurement, Reporting and Personnel Policies, Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New Grantee Training on Financial Management, Procurement, Reporting and Personnel Policies, Erbil ▪ Jessup Moot Court Practice Rounds in Baghdad. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New Grantee Training on Financial Management, Procurement, Reporting and Personnel Policies, Erbil ▪ Jessup Moot Court Practice Rounds in Baghdad. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New Grantee Training on Financial Management, Procurement, Reporting and Personnel Policies, Erbil 		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3-Day Training on Market Research Plans in cooperation with IREX in Erbil ▪ Iraqi Bar Assoc./Kurdish Bar Assoc. joint conf. in Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3-Day Training on Market Research Plans in cooperation with IREX in Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3-Day Training on Market Research Plans in cooperation with IREX in Erbil 			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legal Clinic Operations TOT in Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legal Clinic Operations TOT in Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Third Roundtable on Identity in Baghdad ▪ Legal Clinic Operations TOT in Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legal Clinic Operations TOT in Erbil
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legal Clinic Operations TOT in Erbil 						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC Workshop on Strategic Comm. for new IKR A2J Grantees in Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on Strategic Comm. for new IKR A2J Grantees in Erbil Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on Strategic Comm. for new IKR A2J Grantees in Erbil Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC
31	April 1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC 					

USAID Recommended to attend events circled in RED