



USAID | **IRAQ**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

WEEKLY REPORT #66

February 11 – February 17, 2012

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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 1.1: Partner CSOs, Professional Organizations, and Government Partners Launch Strategic Communication Campaign That Effectively Delivers Priority Access to Justice Messages to Targeted Vulnerable Populations

A2J and IREX conducted the first training program of a series for NGOs, CSOs and government in the Kurdish Region. The program replicates the successful series of trainings completed in Baghdad on effective tools for information dissemination, use of traditional and new media, and media campaigns. The three day program, “Communication Strategies,” started on February 13 at the Van Royal Hotel in Erbil. The 15 participants were from the Kurdish Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (KMoLSA), Legal Magazine, The Kurdistan Bar Association (KBA), WEO NGO, and three organizations invited by IREX. The training covered the need for transparency, preparing a media campaign, writing a good press release, and conducting news analysis.



Result 1.2: Improved Knowledge of Target Groups about Services/Entitlements Offered by the Government and Civil Society

Component 1 followed up with 13 media NGOs and representatives from media production companies to further explain the process for grant applications to implement awareness raising campaigns for the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA). C1 answered questions regarding the grant application form and emphasized that proposals should have innovative communication concepts to help in raising awareness among targeted vulnerable groups. C1 expects applications to be submitted beginning next week.

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

C1 provided a presentation on the USAID Branding and Marking guidelines and a draft work plan design and USAID and A2J logos for two newly approved grantees, Iraqi Alliance of Disability (IADO) and Women for Justice (WFJ).

A2J conducted a site visit in the Kurdish Region to Women Empowerment Organization (WEO) to monitor the quality and progress of their awareness raising campaign, and to reiterate the importance of complying with USAID branding and marking regulations. A2J also visited newly approved Dohuk grantees, Harikar Organization and Kurdistan Reconstruction & Development Society (KURDS); Erbil grantees, Aswat Al Iraq and Warvin; and Sulaymaniyah grantee, Hataw. A2J provided a detailed presentation on USAID Branding and Marking Guidelines and clarified procedures for follow-up and monitoring.



A2J visited two workshops on Civil and Legal Awareness-Raising for Women conducted by Salam Al-Rafidain Organization in Al Yousifya on February 10th.



C1 approved banner and booklet designs for Soran Association for the Care of the Handicapped (SACH) after revisions to comply with USAID Branding and Marking regulations.

Iraqi Alliance of Disability (IADO) requested a Branding and Marking waiver for materials displayed in high security risk areas. The request is under consideration.

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	3
2	Fatema House Charity Women	5 Banners	5 Banners	0	38 (3)
		900 Brochure s	848 Brochures (64)		
		2000 Plastic Bags with Advertising (Contribution)	2000 Plastic Bags with Ads (Contribution)		
3	Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid	5520 Brochures	5125 Brochures (75)	60 Radio Adv.	37
		2650 Posters	2490 Posters (250)	60 TV Adv.	
4	Al-Malak Human Organization	2000 Posters	2000 Posters	8 Live Radio Programs (1)	16 (2)
		3000 Booklets	2450 Booklets (250)		
		3 Banners	3 Banners		
		6000 Adv. in Magazine	3000 Adv. in Magazine		



#	Grantee	Quantity of Print	Distributed	Radio / TV / Web	Awareness Trainings
5	College of Law and Politics, University of Salahaddin	0	0	0	1
6	Women Empowerment Organization	2 Banner (1)	2 Banner (1)	10 Live Radio Programs	38 (4)
		Brochure 1000 (1000)	Brochure 117 (26)	TV Ad. 1	
7	Salam Al-Rafidain Organization	26 Banners (1)	26 Banners (1)	N/A	19 (5)
		1500 Business Cards	1250 Business Cards (75)		
8	Al-Rahma Humanity Association	300 Handbooks	295 Handbooks	TV: 1 Web: 1	5
		10 Banners	10 Banners		
		3000 Brochures	2450 Brochures (75)		
9	Al-Shabk Women Association	5000 Posters	5000 Posters (100)	6 Radio Advertisements Web: 1	8 (1)
		4000 Brochures	4000 Brochures (100)		
		Announcement in the Al-Yaqeen newspaper about the project			
10	Kurdish Human Rights Watch	4000 Booklets	3300 Booklets (200)	Web: 2 Adv. Radio: 3	5
		6 Banners	6 Banners		
11	Soran Association for the Care of the Handicapped (SACH)	1000 Posters	800 Posters (50)	1 Radio Adv.	3
				6 Live Radio Programs	
12	Iraq Al Amal Association	2000 Brochures	1750 Brochures (100)	10 Live Radio Programs (1)	3
		14 Banners	14 Banners		

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

A2J completed a site visit to Al-Amal Kirkuk on Feb 9th and provided technical assistance on unifying the grantee's case record keeping system. The clinic did not have a uniform system that affected accuracy of reporting numbers of completed cases. Verifiable records show the clinic has worked on 51 legal advice cases, 6 lawsuit cases, and logged 91 calls through the hotline. The cases received to date concern divorce, alimony, visitation, custody, paternity and assistance in obtaining IDs.

A2J reviewed ten grant applications from Baghdad and the Kurdish Region.



**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	52(8)	199(22)	105(29)
2	Iraqi Al Amal Association - Kirkuk Center	Kirkuk	Women	91(3)	95(20)	76(1)
3	Fatema House Charity for Women	Baghdad – Sadr City	Women	0		281(18)
4	Al-Rahma Humanity Association	Baghdad - Shaab	Women	94(5)	300(12)	102(6)
5	Women Empowerment Organization	Erbil - Einkawa	Women	54(7)	49(9)	32(2)
6	Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid	Baghdad - Karrada	IDPs	129(0)	136(2)	92(9)
7	Kurdistan Human Rights Watch	Erbil – Einkawa / Khabat	IDPs	142(18)	207(12)	24(1)
8	Soran Association for Care of the Handicapped	Erbil – Soran	Persons with Disabilities	207(4)	82(8)	17(2)
9	Salam Al-Rafidain	Baghdad – Yousifiya	Women	86	53	21
10	Al-Malak Human	Ninawa – Mosul	Women	121	96m	45
11	Al-Shabak Women's Organization	Ninawa - Bartallah	Women	242(17)	172(7)	12(1)

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 accurately during every quarterly report.

Success Story

Mahmud and Khadija were experiencing problems in their marriage. The situation had deteriorated to the point that Mahmud hit his wife because he felt she was making unreasonable demands and treating him badly. Finally, he decided to separate from his wife but Mahmud loved Khadija and did not want to divorce. He knew that the way he treated Khadija was wrong and that he should not resort to violence, or even use harsh words; however, he did not know how to change his actions.

Mahmud heard about the Al Amal Kirkuk Support Center and the services it offers to men and women who want to learn better communications skills, coping mechanisms, and anger management, and chose to go to the center to seek advice and assistance. The staff at Al Amal Kirkuk welcomed Mahmud and engaged in several sessions of training and advice on conflict resolution. According to Mahmud, "I was (given) several sessions of guidance for changing my decision on separation, ...about how to treat my wife and take responsibility, and to use dialogue and listening to my wife's point of view in order to maintain the marriage because we have three children. I followed advice and guidance obtained from the social researcher of the center and now I live with my wife and my children in a stable and happy life and I am not thinking about separation from my wife any longer."

In a country like Iraq where social norms often keep men from seeking assistance on issues related to violence against women, the fact that Al Amal Kirkuk Support Center now exists, and that men such as Mahmud are coming forward to seek advice, is a positive step forward.

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

A2J spent the week providing technical assistance to the Kurdistan Bar Association (KBA) in the proper implementation of grant activities related to providing lawyers with opportunities for *pro bono* work. A plan has been developed for this activity to move forward which includes linking the KBA to Salahaddin University Law School Legal Clinic by providing three *pro bono* lawyers to the clinic. Twenty-five lawyers will also work *pro bono* in NGO legal clinics. A2J is also providing assistance in the KBA’s future awareness raising strategy.



**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.

* Update not available at time of report for NGOs marked with an asterisk (*)

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

The Basrah Regional Office (BRO) is in discussions with the Dhi Qar University Law School regarding the establishment of a legal clinic in the law school. Future meetings will include the Dean and professors to talk about clinic specifics.

A2J spent the week providing in-depth organizational development and technical assistance to Salahaddin University legal clinic in Erbil. The purpose was to help them implement their clinic activities, practical curriculum, and training for students in line with the model for service delivery and practical education developed by A2J.

Salahaddin University Legal Clinic conducted their second four-day legal clinic training course for 13 students highlighting legal clinic operations and *pro bono* work.



**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	Not Started Yet	Not Started Yet	Not Started Yet	Not Started Yet
3	Basrah Law School	Various	Not Started Yet	Not Started Yet	Not Started Yet	Not Started Yet

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.

Having an Effect on Vulnerable People

Acting on recommendation 13 from the Roundtable on Disabilities Law, COMSEC wrote a letter to the Ministry of Construction and Housing urging progress on specialized housing for persons with disabilities and provided A2J with copies of the letter and of the affirmative response. The reply indicated that upon receipt of valid statistical information either the Ministry itself, or the National Investment Committee, is expected to take action addressing the issue. This is an important step which promises to make a difference in people’s daily lives, moving Iraq closer to the ramp-accessed disabilities friendly environment that will be required by the newly acceded to Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

New grantee, KURDS in Dohuk, will hire one liaison officer, based in Erbil, to liaise with the KRG and advocate for implementation of the new disabilities law. KURDS will also conduct an analysis of the new law.

Result 3.2: Coalitions, Hotlines, or Other Positive Linkages to Support Government Efforts to Improve Legal Frameworks for Vulnerable Populations

Component 3 worked with the Iraqi Bar Association (IBA) in preparing the Moot Court in Advocacy event on March 28. The topic of the event will be Iraq's accession to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD).

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

The BRO followed up with Basrah based NGO's that have previously applied for A2J program grants. BRO met with representatives from Hadia Society for Human Rights, Hiyad Organization, and ICHRA to discuss technical recommendations on their applications and to assist them in their revisions. Al-Rawabi Humanitarian Organization, Al-Amal Humanitarian Association, Al-Arqam Organization and Affected Humanitarian Association were also guided to ensure that their grant applications reflect necessary changes based on technical comments from A2J.

A2J completed 9 workshop outlines and agendas covering RFAs, Grants Management, Branding and Marking, Monitoring and Evaluation, Reporting, Financial Reporting, and Work Plans.

Calendar of Activities

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
January 28	29	30	31	February 1	2	3
▪	▪	▪ Meeting with General Yasin (<i>Jensiya</i>)	▪ IADO Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities Celebration, Baghdad	▪ C3 Meeting with HJC Judges hosted in COMSEC (<i>Jensiya</i>)		▪
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
▪ Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training, Basrah	▪ Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training, Basrah ▪ Component 1 meeting (Marking & Branding) with the new Iraq Access to Justice Approved Grantees	▪ 3-Day Communication Strategies (last joint training course with IREX in Baghdad)	▪ 3-Day Communication Strategies (last joint training course IREX in Baghdad)	▪ 3-Day Communication Strategies (last training course with IREX in Baghdad)	▪	▪
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
▪ Grant RFA Workshop for Capacity Building NGOs	▪ Grant RFA Workshop for Capacity Building NGOs	▪ 3-Day Communication Strategies workshop, Erbil	▪ 3-Day Communication Strategies workshop, Erbil	▪ 3-Day Communication Strategies workshop, Erbil	▪	▪
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪

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 	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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USAID Recommended to attend events circled in **RED**