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برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

WEEKLY REPORT #63

January 21 – January 27, 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

Component 1 concluded the series of trainings that were organized in coordination with IREX for media office staff of the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR), Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MoLSA), the NGO Directorate and Access to Justice program grantees, with a seminar on January 23rd. The event was organized to increase coordination between government institutions, CSOs, and the media and to provide the participants with a forum to discuss the difficulties facing vulnerable communities in Iraq. The participants agreed to improve cooperation among the three entities to support the development of Iraq as a society that respects the rights of all citizens, especially those belonging to disadvantaged groups. This seminar was an initial step towards increased cooperation between the three main pillars of the society where they could come together and discuss issues that impact cooperation and decided to continue dialogue to resolve these issues as the three entities agreed that they have to join forces to assist the vulnerable groups to access their rights. The program plans to further this coordination by continuing to provide avenues of coordination between the government, NGOs and Media.

The musical band from the Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organization (IADO) played songs describing the situation of vulnerable people in Iraq. The board of the Iraqi Alliance of Disability board also presented a certificate to the Access to Justice Program as a gesture of appreciation.



Result 1.2: Improved knowledge of target groups about services/entitlements offered by the government and civil society

On Thursday, January 19th, Component 1 met with 20 representatives from 13 media NGOs to discuss the grant application concept and process to apply for grants to implement Awareness Raising Campaigns for Ministry of Human Rights and Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. The team informed the NGOs that the awareness campaigns will be implemented through NGOs as the program is mandated to work through NGOs and we also intend to use this as an opportunity

to improve coordination between the government and NGOs in Iraq. The team explained the grants application procedure and the requirements and selection criteria, and encouraged the participants to develop innovative communication concepts that would increase awareness levels of the target vulnerable groups about their legal rights and services available to them. The participants were requested to send an expression of interest during the next week, confirming their intention to apply on grants for awareness raising campaigns. All the 13 organizations invited to the meeting have expressed their interest in applying for grants and will be issued RFAs in the coming week.



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

The team visited an awareness-raising workshop conducted by Mercy Hands on January 25 in the Al-Taji District, Baghdad. The workshop, facilitated by a lawyer and attended by 33 participants (male 19, female 14), focused mainly on the Personal Status Law. Ministry of Women and Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs representatives described services of the ministries. The facilitator provided guidance and explained the procedures for obtaining financial entitlements and other services.



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	29 (5)
		900 Brochure s	652 Brochures (110)		
		2000 Paper Bags with Advertising	2000 Bags (Contribution)		



		(Contribution)			
3	Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid	3500 Brochures	3400 Brochures (900)	60 Radio Adv.	32 (2)
		1750 Posters	1640 Posters (210)	60 TV Adv.	
4	Al-Malak Human Organization	2000 Posters	1750 Posters (150)	5 Live Radio Programs (3)	10 (1)
		3000 Booklets	1850 Booklets (150)		
		3 Banners	3 Banners		
		1000 Advertisements In Magazine	1000 Advertisement In Magazine		
5	College of Law and Politics, University of Salahaddin	0	0	0	1
6	Women Empowerment Organization	1 Banner	1 Banner	6 Live Radio Programs	28 (1)
7	Salam Al-Rafidain Organization	25 Banners (3)	25 Banners (3)	N/A	11 (2)
		1500 Business Cards (500)	1000 Business Cards (250)		
8	Al-Rahma Humanity Association	2000 Handbooks	1750 Handbooks	0	5
		10 Banners	10 Banners		
		150 Brochures	150 Brochures		
9	Al-Shabk Women Association	5000 Posters	3920 Posters (1770)	6 Radio Advertisements (1)	7 (2)
		4000 Brochures	3100 Brochures (1100)		
		Announcement in the Al-Yaqeen newspaper about the project			
10	Kurdish Human Rights Watch	4000 Booklets	2010 Booklets (10)	Web Advertisements	4
		3 Banners	3 Banners		
11	Soran Association for the Care of the Handicapped (SACH)	1000 Posters	400 Posters	1 Radio Adv.	3 (1)
				6 Live Radio Programs	
12	Iraq Al Amal Association	1500 Brochures	1350 Brochures	7 Live Radio Programs (2)	9 (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

Component 2 visited the legal clinic at Al Amal Najaf on Thursday, January 26. A discussion of the findings will be included in next week's report.

Component 2 met with Kurdish Human Rights Watch (KHRW) regarding progress of KHRW's legal clinic activities. KHRW reported the following direct impact on the lives of IDPs in the Khabat area:

As part of a joint advocacy program between the KHRW's legal clinic and the Khabat Mayor, 700 internally displaced families received a year's supply of fuel (200 liters) used for heating and cooking. Many of these families are receiving assistance from the legal clinic to complete the procedures of transferring their ration card (PDS) registration from Ninewa to Erbil after they were left with expired/invalid ration cards and no way to renew them when the Kurdistan Regional Government suspended the process. As a result, these families were left with no fuel to heat their homes. After KHRW's coordinated efforts with other stakeholders, the government agreed to issue the fuel. KHRW is committed to advocating for vulnerable people such as IDPs, and ensuring access to rights and entitlements.

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	40(2)	164 (3)	76 (9)
2	Iraqi Al Amal Association - Kirkuk Center	Kirkuk	Women	83(4)	68 (5)	73 (4)
3	Fatima House Charity for Women*	Baghdad - Sadr City	Women	N/A	N/A	209 (27)
4	Al-Rahma Humanity Association	Baghdad - Shaab	Women	81 (8)	233 (13)	79 (6)
5	Women Empowerment Organization*	Erbil - Einkawa	Women	49	13	19
6	Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid	Baghdad - Karrada	IDPs	129 (14)	122 (5)	50 (12)
7	Kurdistan Human Rights Watch*	Erbil - Einkawa / Khabat	IDPs	57	111	21
8	Soran Association for Care of the Handicapped*	Erbil - Soran	Persons with Disabilities	181	80	8
9	Salam Al-Rafidain	Baghdad - Yousifiya	Women	69 (17)	118 (15)	15
10	Al-Malak	Ninewa - Mosul	Women	84	44	11
11	Al-Shabak Women's Organization*	Ninewa - Bartallah	Women	180	93	11



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 (*)

A2J will conduct an RFA workshop in Basrah on February 4th. Representatives from 17 NGOs in other southern provinces such as Dhi-Qar and Missan, are expected to attend the workshop. The program has intensified efforts in reaching out to NGOs in the southern provinces, briefing them on program grants funds available for NGOs supporting vulnerable populations. The Basrah Regional Office (BRO) has distributed packages to invited NGOs which includes the RFA and GSF forms, application and form completion instructions, helpful tips, and contact information.

BRO has reached out to the Humanitarian Blind Association, the Humanitarian Association of the Disadvantaged, the Sada Center for the Human Development (Dhi-Qar) and the Al-Khair Humanitarian Organization. Program representatives provided these potential partners with a description of the A2J Program and encouraged them to apply for the Program grants.

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	Human Rights Awareness	5	125
2	Iraqi Bar Association	Human Rights Awareness	9	590

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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



Judges and law student teams are prepped for the first day of competition by National Jessup Moot Court Administrator, Leslie Ohta (Left); Each team competed against teams of peers four times during the preliminary rounds with the top four of seven teams qualifying for the semi-finals (Right)



On January 22-26, the Iraq national round of the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition was held in Erbil. The event was hosted by Access to Justice, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Justice. Jessup simulates a fictional dispute between countries before the International Court of Justice, the judicial organ of the United Nations. One team is allowed to participate from every eligible school. Teams prepare oral and written pleadings arguing both the applicant and respondent positions of the case. Most students must first compete in national and regional competitions (mostly held January-March) to earn the right to advance to the White & Case International Rounds held every spring in Washington, D.C.

Teams representing 7 Iraqi law schools competed this year in the Iraq National Rounds. The results are as follows:

1. Baghdad Law School (Champion)
2. Dhi-Qar Law School (Runner Up)
3. Al-Nahrain Law School (Semi Finalist)
4. Anbar Law School (Semi Finalist)
5. Sulaymaniyah Qradagh Law School
6. Diyala Law School
7. Kirkuk Law School
8. Kirkuk Law School

A2J provided practical skills training to the volunteer student bailiffs who act as the official timekeepers for the oral rounds. The training focused on courtroom decorum and how to control the courtroom.



Final Round – Baghdad Law School all-women team competing against Dhi Qar Law School to take the championship in front of renowned international law judges including two who presided over the Saddam Hussein Trials in the International High Tribunal

A2J is now working on obtaining visas for the winning team and the runners-up to attend the international competition in Washington, D.C. Baghdad University College of Law, the winning team, was an all-female team hand-picked by the Dean of the College for not only the team members' poise in the court room and ability to think critically, but also for their language skills. This year in the international competition, the team plans to compete and argue in the English Language, which has not been the case for the Iraqi teams that have competed in the past until now. In the next couple of months the Program will also be providing training to the two teams on courtroom etiquette and lawyering skills.



**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	10	80	1	15
2	Baghdad Law School	Various	Starting Jan 2012	Starting Jan 2012	Starting Jan 2012	Starting Jan 2012
3	Basrah Law School	Various	Not Started Yet	Not Started Yet	Not Started Yet	Not Started Yet

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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.

On January 23, the Iraqi Parliament voted to accede to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, leaving only the Presidential signature (nominally within 10 days) and publication as follow-on steps before Iraq deposits its instruments of accession with the U.N. Secretary General.

The team has continued working with the KURDS Organization on its grants proposal in light of current developments and opportunities and has recommended final changes to the Hanna Youth application.

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

The BRO met with the Legal Committee of the Basrah Provincial Council (BPC) during the week. The Committee expressed appreciation for the Anti-Begging Draft Law comments submitted by A2J and assured program representatives that the comments were considered in the next draft of the law.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

Grant Summary/Applications: Notified applicants from November cycle (Grant Application) of GEC decisions and comments regarding their applications and follow up with them. Notified applicants from December cycle (Grants Summary Form) of GEC decisions and comments regarding their projects and follow up with them. Fifteen (15) GSFs were accepted from the December cycle and 22 were rejected.

M&E Reporting: Focused on collecting outstanding grantee reports. Presently, roughly 96% have been collected. Salahaddin University(?) reports are the most difficult to collect.

The grants team suggested that Al Rahma provide a revised Grant Objective statement to account for new activities, along with a corresponding budget prior to the end date of the agreement for grant extension consideration.

PROGRAM SUPPORT

GENDER SPECIALIST

Result 5.1: Assessment of Gender Integration Activities to Date that Will Inform the Development of a Gender Action Plan that Identifies Cross Cutting and Component Specific GIAPs

The Gender Specialist completed a gender assessment interview with the new Training Specialist. Although the Training Specialist is new to the Access to Justice Project, his observations provided insight into the gender mainstreaming needs of the Project.

A second focus group was conducted to discuss the unique issues faced by widows that are to be utilized for the Value Chain Analysis, and to discuss women in Iraq for the Gender Assessment. These Focus Group participants were Iraqis from the Access to Justice Project.

Drafting of the Gender Assessment Report has continued throughout this week. The Gender Assessment Report will include the following key elements of the Gender Work plan in one document: Gender Assessment, Gender Action Plan, and Training and Capacity Plan.

Calendar of Activities

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moot Court Training for Judges and Bailiffs (Abu Shehab Rest. in Erbil) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iraqi National Moot Court Competition, Erbil – Erbil International Hotel (aka the “Sheraton” Hotel) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iraqi National Moot Court Competition, Erbil – Erbil International Hotel (aka the “Sheraton” Hotel) C1 Seminar for NGO Partners - Increased understanding of the real needs of stakeholders in partnership with IREX, Baghdad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iraqi National Moot Court Competition, Erbil – Erbil International Hotel (aka the “Sheraton” Hotel) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iraqi National Moot Court Competition, Erbil – Erbil International Hotel (aka the “Sheraton” Hotel) 		
28	29	30	31	February 1	2	3
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with General Yasin to discuss Jinsiyah issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IADO Convention for Rights of Persons with Disabilities Celebration - Baghdad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C3 Meeting for Jinsiya with HJC Judges hosted in COMSEC 		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training, Basrah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training, Basrah 					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant RFA Workshop for Capacity Building NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant RFA Workshop for Capacity Building NGOs 					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
25	26	27	28	29	March 1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants Kick-Off meeting – Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Grantee Training – Financial Management, Procurement Management, Reporting and Personnel Policies - Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Grantee Training – Financial Management, Procurement Management, Reporting and Personnel Policies - Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Grantee Training – Financial Management, Procurement Management, Reporting and Personnel Policies - Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Grantee Training – Financial Management, Procurement Management, Reporting and Personnel Policies - Erbil 		<ul style="list-style-type: none">
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

USAID Recommended to attend events circled in RED