

# IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

## WEEKLY REPORT #60

December 31, 2011 – January 6, 2012

**January, 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**

The Component team continued with initial preparations to support Awareness Raising Campaigns for the Ministries of Human Rights (MOHR) and Labor and Social Welfare (MOLSA) through continuing a series of planning meetings with ministry counterparts. A2J was joined by the USAID COTR and ACOTR in a meeting with the Director General of International Coordination of Ministry of Human Rights. USAID emphasized the need for collaboration between the GOI and civil society to better respond to the needs of vulnerable groups in Iraq. The program will fund awareness raising campaigns that NGOs will run under the supervision and cooperation of the ministries. These campaigns, it is hoped, will prove to be a good platform for the government and the CSOs to start coordination. The MOHR Director General also discussed the possibility of USAID support in providing training to NGOs in collaboration with MOHR on anti-corruption, in coordination with the Integrity Commission, as a way to break the ice between civil society organizations and the GOI, and create expectations of transparency in work and representation of the vulnerable groups in Iraq that will create trust between civil society and government. The Program will draft a concept paper in cooperation with MOHR on the possibility of A2J support of anti-corruption training for NGOs that represent vulnerable groups to present to USAID for further discussion in the coming week.

The Erbil Regional Director met with Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) MOLSA to discuss effective campaigns in partnership with Access to Justice. Dr. Arif, the MOLSA Director General, suggested a number of NGOs that he would like to work with to launch these campaigns. Specific target initiatives that MOLSA would like to concentrate on include raising awareness of gender based violence. The ERO will now work to set a time for a roundtable meeting of MOLSA and NGO representatives to discuss the kinds of awareness campaigns needed in this area.

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

The team received proposals from media production houses for the A2J awareness campaign. The proposals contain ideas and quotations for radio, television, and print media to raise and improve knowledge levels of Iraqis in general and target vulnerable groups in particular about their legal rights and ways to access them. The proposals are under review by the Technical Evaluation Committee. A decision is expected by the 15<sup>th</sup> of January.

### **Result 1.3: Practical Knowledge of Vulnerable Populations of How to Access and Use Tools Improved Through Traditional and Social Media**

At the conclusion of the training series being conducted with IREX for media office staff of MOHR, MOLSA, the NGO Directorate, and selected Program grantees, A2J is planning a seminar to develop and increase coordination between government institutions, CSOs, and the media in order to highlight the plight of vulnerable communities in Iraq. The seminar is tentatively scheduled for January 23, 2012, with high-level officials of MOHR, MOLSA, the NGO Directorate, NGO/CSOs, and media organizations. Component 1 is working in close coordination with IREX and participating institutions to finalize the seminar agenda, which will include active discussions focused on ways of gaining exposure for and improving the quality of



reporting on social issues faced by vulnerable communities in Iraq. The seminar is expected to be the first step by A2J in its effort to bridge the gap between media, CSOs, and government institutions in enhancing their cooperation on awareness raising strategies aimed at the Iraqi population on issues significant to vulnerable groups.

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

The team attended an awareness-raising workshop conducted by Fatima House on January 4<sup>th</sup> at their office in Sadr City. The workshop was facilitated by two female lawyers and was attended by 27 participants. The main focus of the workshop was Women’s Rights in the Civil Law.

Twelve awareness-raising campaigns are being implemented by Program grantees in different parts of the country. The team provides mentoring support, quality control and complicity by working closely with each grantee on their materials. An update on the status of these campaigns is reflected in the table below:

#### Weekly Update of Awareness Campaigns

#	Grantee	Qty. of print	Distributed	Radio/TV/Web Advertisements	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	20 (3)
		900 Brochure	430 Brochure (67)		
		2000 Printed Bags (NGO Contribution)	2000 Sacks (Contribution)		
3	Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid	3500 Brochure	2290 Brochure (1500)	60 Radio Ads	26 (3)
		1750 Posters	1360 Posters (60)	60 TV Ads	
4	Al-Malak Human Organization	1500 Posters (500)	1100 Posters (100)	2 Live Radio Programs	7 (1)
		2000 Booklets (500)	1300 Booklets (400)		
		3 Banners	3 Banners		
		1000 Ads in Magazine	1000 Ads in Magazine		
5	College of Law and Politics, University of Salahaddin	0	0	0	1
6	Women Empowerment Organization	1 Banner (1)	1 Banner (1)	6 Live Radio Programs	17
7	Salam Al-Rafidain Organization	25 Banners (3)	25 Banners (3)	N/A	9
		1500 Business Card (500)	1000 Business Card (250)		
8	Al-Rahma Humanity Association	2000 Handbooks for widows	1750 Handbook (500)	0	5
		10 Banners	10 Banners		
		150 Brochure	150 Brochure		
9	ALShabk Women Association	5000 Poster	2150 Poster (150)	5 Radio Ads (1)	5 (3)
		4000 Brochure	2000 Brochure (250)		
10	Kurdish Human Rights Watch	4000 Booklets	2000 Booklets (300)	Web Ads	4
		3 Banners	3 Banners		
11	Soran Association for the Care of the Handicapped (SACH)	1000 Posters	400 Posters	1 Radio Ad 6 Live Radio Programs	2
12	Iraq Al Amal Association	1500 Brochure	1350 Brochure	5 Live Radio Programs	6

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 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

The Erbil Regional team conducted three preliminary assessments in Dohuk for newly approved grantees Harikar, VOP (Voice of Older People) and KURDS that included the collection of support documents and GPS coordinates. Information collected in the preliminary assessment will assist the Access to Justice grants and technical teams to ensure that areas of administrative and programmatic weakness are systematically addressed during the implementation of the grant.



Figure 1: Harikar NGO Headquarters and site of future USAID Access to Justice-Supported Legal Clinic in Dahouk



Figure 2: KURDS Headquarters in Dahouk – newly approved Access to Justice Partner Grantee



Figure 3: VOP Headquarters in Dahouk – Project will be carried out in Sheikhan Village

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, the Access to Justice Chief of Party and Media Specialist discussed with the Director of the NGO Directorate the progress on the development of an automated system for registration on a new website for the Directorate. The website project is on track and design work will begin in the coming two weeks, with which the NGO Directorate was please. In addition, the Directorate agreed to advertise the Program RFA in Arabic, English, and Kurdish to all registered NGOs and interested NGOs for trainings that A2J will conduct at the Directorate on a rolling basis to increase dissemination of Access to Justice RFAs to the greatest number of registered NGOs possible

Despite civil unrest in Mosul created by the Iraqi Bar Association over the controversial arrest of three lawyers by Special Forces from the Court of Nineveh, Al-Malak carried out one training session for women with the help of Nineveh Chamber of Commerce President, Ms. Nifal. The full day training session was attended by more than 15 women and provided legal consultations to them on how to apply for benefits and the kinds of documentation needed.

Al-Shabak has one case to be referred to a legal clinic in Baghdad and has requested a connection with an Access to Justice NGO grantee in Baghdad. The Erbil Regional Office is working with the grants team and Component 2 on identifying an appropriate NGO.

### 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	50 (3)	N/A	36 (4)
2	Iraqi Al Amal Association - Kirkuk Center	Kirkuk	Women	19 (4)	N/A	41(3)
3	Fatema House Charity for Women	Baghdad - Sadr City	Women	167 (35) <sup>1</sup>	N/A	176 (35)
4	Al-Rahma Humanity Association	Baghdad - Shaab	Women	(300) 17 <sup>2</sup>	N/A	21
5	Women Empowerment Organization	Erbil - Einkawa	Women	49 (13)	13 (13)	15 (5)
6	Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid	Baghdad - Karrada	IDPs	105 (17)	N/A	122 (39)
7	Kurdistan Human Rights Watch	Erbil - Einkawa / Khabat	IDPs	23 (11)	81	21
8	Soran Association for Care of the Handicapped	Erbil - Soran	Persons with Disabilities	184 (12)	56 (56)	72 (9)

<sup>1</sup> Fatima House received 35 call log since Dec 29<sup>th</sup> till the date of writing the report.

<sup>2</sup> This number indicates the call log for Dec 2011 only. Al-Rahma did not provided us with details about the cases and they informed us they will next week



#	Grantee	Location	Focus of Legal Assistance	# of Hotline Calls	# of Legal Consultations	# of Legal Cases
9	Salam Al-Rafidain	Baghdad - Yousifiya	Women	45 (32)	102	14 (2)
10	Al-Malak Human	Ninawa - Mosul	Women	100 (14)	40	15 (5)
11	Al-Shabak Women's Organization	Ninawa - Bartallah	Women	162 (40)	91	9

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.

C2 Legal Education Advisor met with Ms. Ahlam Al-Lami, Head of the IBA Human Rights Committee on January 4<sup>th</sup> to follow-up the need for the IBA to open a new bank account for the receipt of grant funds. Ms. Al-Lami confirmed that IBA will open a new account by early next week. The Legal Education Advisor also met with Mr. Razaq Hamed, member of the IBA Legal Committee, to follow up the progress in drafting the pieces of the research document that will serve as a map for the Program to identify legal impediments to assistance for vulnerable Iraqis and practical solutions to these impediments. Mr. Razaq confirmed that IBA has completed more than 50% of the draft in all subjects and they are typing the parts that are completed. The first drafts include women's rights, children's rights, trafficking in persons, and persons with disabilities.

The Basra Regional Office (BRO) met with a number of Basra NGOs and provided them with the necessary direction and information needed on their proposals. The BRO also updated them on the status of their applications, discussed issues and concerns, and collected feedback. Rural Woman's Association (RWA) and Al Manahil Humanitarian Organization (MHO) along with BRO staff have fully reviewed the respective organizations' proposals in separate sessions clarifying some of the application items in terms of the minimum acceptable standards of the Access to Justice Program for the potential approval of awarding funds to their proposed activities focusing on the vulnerable populations. These applications are all in stage one of the grant application process.

Basra Regional Office reviewed Grant Application Forms that successfully passed the first stage of the Grant Summary Forms (GSF) for the following four NGOs to provide input into the grant evaluation process and committee meeting for the selection of the next round of grantees:

- Bustan Association for Children' Protection and Education
- Iraqi Center for Human Rights Activists ("ICHRA")
- The Development Foundation for Culture, Media and Economy
- Al-Meezan Newspaper (Meezan Center to Support Rule of Law)

**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**

The Kurdistan Bar Association (KBA) completed the third workshop for 25 lawyers in Abu Shahab City Restaurant on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The workshop covered three issues: 1) legal clinics and their role in assisting the vulnerable; 2) volunteerism; and 3) the lawyers' code of conduct.



**Figure 4: Kurdistan Region lawyers learn about volunteering to assist the vulnerable in training provided by the Kurdistan Bar Association on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011**

**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	3 (1)	75 (25)
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**

C2 prepared for the “Best Practices for Legal Clinics in Law Schools” training to be held next week in Erbil on January 8-9. All translation of materials from English to Arabic, including the agenda and 3 power point presentations (Comparative Models of CLE; Clinical Legal Education in Iraq; Prospects for the Future; and Review on Legal Clinics) was completed.

The trainer for the best practices training, Dr. Mohamed Mattar, arrived on January 4<sup>th</sup> and worked with the Baghdad Law School Legal Clinic team on January 5<sup>th</sup>, reviewing progress and plans for the clinic. Dr. Mattar visited the site for the legal clinic and noted the effectiveness of the location, which provides room for students to interact with beneficiaries. Dr. Mattar also discussed preparations on changes to legal clinic curriculum that includes a new course on legal clinical education that will begin later in February. Dr. Mattar will provide input on the changes to the Assistant Dean by February 25<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Mattar shared best practices on the number of students participating in a legal clinic, namely, allowing a limited number of students in order to facilitate active and thorough interaction between the students and the beneficiaries, which maximizes the students’ learning.

**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 (2)	80	1	15
2	Baghdad Law School	Various	Starting Jan 1, 2012	Starting Jan 1, 2012	Starting Jan 1, 2012	Starting Jan 1, 2012
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.

The Erbil Regional Office preparing for the Jessup International Moot Court Competition, scheduled to begin on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The team is working with the National Administrator, the DOJ's Leslie Ohta, who was in Erbil on January 1-4 to meet with the A2J team and ensure that preparations are moving forward. Judges have been identified and teams are in progress for their preparations for the competition.

**COMPONENT 3 – ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

**Result 3.1: Support partners in reviewing processes and procedures for the reform of policies, regulations, and legislation as they relate to vulnerable populations.**

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Component 3 completed a training workshop for NGOs on applying for A2J grants and brainstorming with them in new ideas in A2J advocacy-related activities.



**Figure 5: Grant Proposal Writing training for NGOs working in areas of advocacy**

Component 3 Legal Advisor held a second meeting with members of the Legal Committee in the IBA on Thursday January 5<sup>th</sup> to finalize the third revision of the Revised Law on Lawyers Draft Law in accordance with the recommendations resulted from the Supplementary Conference on Law on Lawyers Draft Law discussions on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The final draft is expected to be completed within the coming week.

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

The Chief of Party and Component 3 team met with the Director General of the Citizens Affairs Directorate in the Council of Ministers, a direct administrative attachment to the highest levels of the executive branch of Iraqi Government, to discuss further cooperation on a number of issues that are mutual priorities for both the Program and the Directorate on Thursday, January 5..

As a result of the lobbying efforts of Access to Justice NGO partner IADO and other organizations that have been actively advocating for reform in the area of rights of persons with disabilities, the Directorate organized a new division that will focus entirely on following up government actions taken to improve access and inclusion of persons with disabilities throughout all ministries and provinces. The Directorate officially requested that Access to Justice train the employees of this new division to ensure that they are effective in their new task. The Directorate agreed, at the urging of the Program, that ongoing input from NGOs will be valuable. Access to Justice will prepare a concept paper for review by the Directorate on developing this new division and the inclusion of NGOs in the process of observation and following-up the work of the division as well as implementation of reforms by ministries.

Following-up the COMSEC-led inter-ministerial meetings on *jinsiya* in October and November in 2011, the Directorate issued next steps to continue the pursuit of *jinsiya* reform that will enable Iraqi citizens without identity cards to more easily obtain the documentation necessary to claim full rights as Iraqi citizens. The Directorate agreed to organize a meeting, tentatively scheduled for February 1 or 2, with two important judges to discuss possible legal steps in this area. The meeting will be hosted by COMSEC and will include Program representatives. Another meeting will be organized between the Directorate legal division and NGOs assisting Iraqi citizens without identity so that the Directorate might benefit from the experiences of these organizations.

A third area of cooperation discussed during the meeting was related to violence against women and legal reforms that affect widows. The Directorate agreed to organize a meeting in the latter part of February with the Minister of Women's affairs and the Director General of Vocational Training from MOLSA to discuss steps in empowering women head of households through changes in ministerial policy so that women have equal access to training opportunities in fields that will allow them to economically support their family. Currently, access to these opportunities is not proportional or fair, leaving widowed or divorced women unable to adequately provide for their families.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Director General requested that the Access to Justice Program officially submit to the Directorate a process/procedure in which the Directorate might interact on a more systematic basis with NGOs who represent civil society. This request draws on the success of last week's meeting between NGOs and the Directorate that was organized by A2J. COMSEC's request is a major step in creating constructive dialogue between civil society and government.

Component 3 team met with Dr. Othman, the Assistant Head of the Legal Department of the Council of Ministers, who is responsible for reviewing all laws before they are submitted to Parliament for review, reading, and further discussion. Access to Justice emphasized the importance of the newly revised Draft Law on Lawyers and the need for Dr. Othman's input, as well as, the input of the Shura Council and the Legal Committee prior to the IBA's formal submission of the draft law to the Council of Ministers. Dr. Othman was impressed with the efforts of the Program and the IBA on the re-drafting of this law and agreed to a preliminary

meeting with the Shura Council, the IBA, and the Legal Committee of Parliament to review the draft in the near future.

## **GRANTS ADMINISTRATION**

The Grants team completed two workshops in Baghdad this week on Proposal Writing and the Application Process for NGOs. The first workshop was held on January 2-3 with 14 participants from Baghdad and 1 from Babel. The second workshop was held on January 4-5 with 14 representatives from 6 NGOs in Baghdad. The team also worked on preparations for the Grants Management Training scheduled for the end of January.

The team is preparing for the release of second disbursements for the following NGOs: Al-Mortaga, Salam Al-Rafidain, KHRW, Mercy Hands, Fatima House and Al-Rahma. Draft grant agreements are being finalized for Voice of Older People (VOP) and Civil Development Organization (CDO), following the completion of the preliminary risk assessments.

The Grants Evaluation Committee convened this week and reviewed ten grant applications. Four NGOs were approved, five need further proposal development, and one was rejected.

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>December 31</b>	<b>January 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
▪	▪	▪ Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training, Baghdad	▪ Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training, Baghdad	▪ Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training, Baghdad	▪ Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training, Baghdad	▪
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
▪	▪ Law School Legal Clinic Best Practices with Dr. Mohammad Mattar, Erbil	▪ Law School Legal Clinic Best Practices with Dr. Mohammad Mattar, Erbil	▪	▪	▪	▪
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
▪	▪	▪ C1 Media Coordination Seminar in Partnership with IREX, Baghdad	▪	▪ Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training, Erbil	▪ Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training, Erbil	▪
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
▪	▪ Iraqi National Moot Court Competition, Erbil	▪ Iraqi National Moot Court Competition, Erbil ▪ C1 Seminar for NGO Partners - Increased understanding of the real needs of stakeholders in partnership with IREX, Baghdad	▪ Iraqi National Moot Court Competition, Erbil	▪	▪	▪
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>February 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
▪ New Grantee Kick-Launch Event/Training	▪ New Grantee Financial Management, Procurement and Personnel Procedures Training	▪ New Grantee Financial Management, Procurement and Personnel Procedures Training	▪ New Grantee Financial Management, Procurement and Personnel Procedures Training	▪ New Grantee Financial Management, Procurement and Personnel Procedures Training	▪ C3 Meeting for Jinsiya with HJC Judges hosted in COMSEC	▪

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training, Basrah</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training, Basrah</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>				

USAID Recommended to attend events circled in **RED**