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برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

WEEKLY REPORT #59

December 24, 2011 – December 30, 2011

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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 began preparations to support awareness raising campaigns with the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA). During a meeting with the Ministry of Human Rights, an agreement was reached that IA2J will support a series of awareness raising campaigns for vulnerable groups through Iraqi media-focused NGOs. Ministry officials agreed that the campaigns be a joint effort between the Ministry of Human Rights and selected CSOs specializing in implementation of awareness raising campaigns. IA2J expects to receive applications from NGOs specializing in media awareness raising campaigns in the next round of applications. The Ministry appreciated IA2J's training of their media staff on planning and implementation of awareness raising campaigns and noted that the staff's enhanced skills will help them in supervising and supporting NGOs implementing upcoming campaigns.

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 series of trainings conducted with IREX for media office staff of MoHR, MoLSA, the NGO Directorate, and selected IA2J grantees, IA2J will organize 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. Component 1 is working in close coordination with IREX and participating institutions to finalize the seminar agenda. Leading media organizations will participate in 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 IA2J's first step in its effort to bridge the gap between media, CSOs, and government institutions in enhancing cooperation on awareness raising strategies aimed at the Iraqi population on issues significant to vulnerable groups. The seminar is tentatively scheduled for January 23, 2012, with high-level officials of MoHR, MoLSA, the NGO Directorate, NGO/CSOs, and media organizations.

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

Component 1 reviewed a brochure from Women Empowerment Organization which needed to be adjusted according to the USAID marking and branding policy. Comments were also given on the legal meaning of Kurdish terms used in the brochure.

An update on the status of grantee 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 (2)	8 Banners (2)	N/A	3
2	Fatema House Charity Women	5 Banners	5 Banners	0	17 (3)
		900 Brochure	363 Brochure		
		2000 Sacks (Contribution)	2000 Sacks (Contribution)		
3	Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid	3500 Brochure	2140 Brochure (1240)	60 Radio Advertisements	23 (6)
		1750 Posters	1300 Posters (100)	60 TV. Advertisements	
4	Al-Malak Human Organization	1000 Posters	1000 Posters	6 live Radio Programs (Contribution)	5 (1)
		1500 Booklets	900 Booklets		
		3 Banners	3 Banners		
		1000 Adv. In Magazine	1000 Adv. In Magazine		
5	College of Law and Politics, University of Salahaddin	0	0	0	1
6	Women Empowerment Organization	0	0	6 live Radio Programs	17 (1)
7	Salam Al-Rafidain Organization	22 Banners	22 Banners	N/A	9 (3)
		1000 Business Card	750 Business Card		
8	Al-Rahma Humanity Association	2000 Hand book	1250 Hand book (250)	0	5 (1)
		10 Banners	10 Banners		
		90 Brochure	90 Brochure		
9	ALShabk Women Association	5000 Poster	2000 Poster (500)	4 Radio Advertisements (1)	2 (1)
		4000 Brochure	1750 Brochure (250)		
10	Kurdish Human Rights Watch	4000 Booklets	1700 Booklets (100)	Web Advertisements	4
		3 Banners	3 Banners		
11	Soran Association for the Care of the Handicapped (SACH)	1000 Posters	400 Posters	1 Radio Advertisements	2
				6 live Radio Programs	
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 accurately during every quarterly report.

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 Basrah Regional Office and the Grants Team completed an RFA grant proposal-writing workshop for partners and CSOs in the Basrah International Hotel on December 24-25. The workshop was held in response to previous needs assessments for capacity building of Basrah NGOs. Sixteen participants representing 12 Basrah NGOs attended. BRO gave a brief presentation about the IA2J Program's support to vulnerable populations and about the importance of NGOs' activities and projects in helping the vulnerable to understand and access their rights and entitlements under Iraqi law.

Component 2 conducted a site visit to Salam al Rafidain Organization in the Mahmoudiya district of Baghdad in order to monitor performance pursuant to their grant agreement, and to attend one of their legal awareness workshops. The workshop covered women's rights under the 2005 Iraqi Constitution, the 1959 Iraqi Personal Status Law, and the importance of marriage registration. Twenty-seven women attended the workshop and 14 legal cases were accepted for representation concerning personal status, social security benefits, and compensation for victims of terrorism.



Component 2 followed-up with the legal committee of the IBA on the progress of the legal study research project. IA2J received the hand written draft of the second section of five sections that are part of the IBA grant to research legal impediments for vulnerable groups in accessing their rights. This latest draft section is concerning Women's Rights Under Iraqi Law. IA2J is reviewing the draft.

IA2J conducted a site visit to Al-Amal Organization, Kirkuk office to their understanding of the role and process of completing M&E forms. The Al-Amal Kirkuk office has received 24 legal cases since October, twenty-one being legal consultations and three being cases for legal representation. Two of those are completed and one is in progress.



IA2J conducted a site visit to Soran Association for Care of the Handicapped (SACH) in Erbil. SACH is providing services to people with disabilities and women - widows and domestic violence victims. They have received a total of 63 cases, 32 of which are women and 31 are men. Twelve of the cases are for legal representation in court, four have been completed. The remaining 51 cases concern representation in government directorates. During the visit, the IA2J team clarified with whom the SACH project manager should be coordinating with on the Program. IA2J is in the process of revising and consolidating reporting forms in anticipation of a new Grants Manager soon joining the project.

**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 Cases
1	Iraqi Al Amal Association - Najaf Center	Najaf	Women	50	36(4)
2	Iraqi Al Amal Association - Kirkuk Center	Kirkuk	Women	21	41(3)
3	Fatema House Charity for Women	Baghdad – Sadr City	Women	0	42
4	Al-Rahma Humanity Association	Baghdad - Shaab	Women	47	157
5	Women Empowerment Organization	Erbil - Einkawa	Women	36	10
6	Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid	Baghdad - Karrada	IDPs	105(17)	122(39)
7	Kurdistan Human Rights Watch	Erbil – Einkawa / Khabat	IDPs	12	81
8	Soran Association for Care of the Handicapped	Erbil – Soran	Persons with Disabilities	184(12)	63(10)
9	Salam Al-Rafidain	Baghdad – Yousifiya	Women	80(8)	52(12)



#	Grantee	Location	Focus of Legal Assistance	# of Hotline Calls	# of Legal Cases
10	Al-Malak Human	Ninawa – Mosul	Women	86(48)	45(15)
11	Al-Shabak Women's Organization	Ninawa - Bartallah	Women	122(59)	98(54)

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.

The Erbil Regional Office and the Grants Team conducted a site visit to the WEO legal clinic in Ainkawa, Erbil. The Program M&E specialist provided clarification on the new format of the M&E forms.

In Ninewa Province, Al-Shabak conducted one workshop for 20 women in Mauafaqia Village, Bartallah, in which a female lawyer gave a lecture on women’s rights. Al-Malak conducted training for 20 women at Al-Sidra association in Mosul on issues related to economically challenged women.

The Kurdish Asayish (security) prevented Al-Shabak from hanging posters in Bashiqa and Al-Hamdaniya sub-districts, in the disputed area of Ninewa Province. The Asayish also prevented the organization from conducting a workshop in the Yezidi Solidarity Association without justification. The Asayish told the organization they would be allowed to resume their work after the beginning of the year.

BRO’s ongoing technical support to NGOs has resulted in three NGOs intending to apply for program grants. The NGOs are: Al Anwar Humanitarian Society; Al Manahil Humanitarian Organization; and Miameen Humanitarian Organization. In meetings this week with the three organizations, best methods of writing the Grant Summery Form were discussed.

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	2(1)	50(25)
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

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

#	Grantee	Focus of Legal Assistance	# of Legal Cases	# of Students Participating (Current or Completed) in the Legal Clinic	# of Courses / Trainings Relevant to Legal Clinical Education	# of Students in Legal Clinical Education Courses
1	Salahaddin Law School (Erbil)	Various	7(3)	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 accurately during every quarterly report.

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.

Component 3 completed preparations for the third workshop for advocacy NGOs, to be held on January 2-3, 2012. The workshops serve two purposes:

- (1) Train NGOs to submit successful grant applications to IA2J in order to obtain grant funding, and
- (2) Encourage NGOs to use their on-the-ground expertise concerning situations facing vulnerable groups in their particular location in designing relevant activities for IA2J grants.

In following up on the Second Conference on the Law of Lawyers held by the Iraqi Bar Association in partnership with IA2J, Component 3 worked with the IBA to develop a summary report and agreed-upon notes on what transpired and what was agreed to at the December 22nd conference. Component 3 continues to support the IBA's editing of the draft law which contains *pro bono* requirements for lawyers.

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



On December 26th, IA2J met with a group of NGOs active in disabilities issues at COMSEC in follow-up to the Persons with Disabilities Roundtable held the previous week. IA2J delivered the Roundtable recommendations on a legislative agenda. . IA2J supports its partner NGOs (including IADO, KURDS, and others) in actively advocating that Iraq fully meet its obligations under the Iraqi Constitution concerning people with disabilities before shouldering new obligations towards the disabled such as the numerous obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). IA2J emphasized the importance of Iraq establishing an implementation plan for Article 33 of the Convention as a first step, which requires establishing an Iraqi focal point (an independent commission) for exchanges coming into and flowing out of Iraq, a core structure under the Convention. The meeting included a discussion on whether the focal point should be under either COMSEC or COR (and not within Ministerial structures) because it is such a fundamental function under the Convention. IA2J's organization of this meeting brought together NGOs who often feel unappreciated by the government, with high levels of government.

Component 3 completed the draft report on the Disabilities Roundtable in Arabic in anticipation of producing the final version in English and Arabic.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

Site visits were conducted to Al-Amal Family Support Center in Kirkuk, KHRW, WEO, SACH, and Iraqi Al-Mortaqa Association. The team also followed up with grantees on reports, receipts, and new grant applications.

PROGRAM SUPPORT

MEDIA SPECIALIST

Extensive revisions to the IA2J website were completed this week in English and Arabic. The RFA was uploaded to the site along with other related grants documents, fact sheets, and program highlights. The website is now under final review by all IA2J components.

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

Administration/HR/IT

A candidate for the Training Specialist has been identified and will begin in the coming week.

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
December 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				▪ First Quarterly Partners' Meeting	▪ First Quarterly Partners' Meeting ▪ NGO Roundtable with USAID Deputy Administrator Mara Rudman	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
▪ C3 Roundtable on Disabilities Law Reform			▪ C1 Media Campaign Training in Partnership with IREX in Baghdad	▪ C1 Media Campaign Training in Partnership with IREX in Baghdad	▪ Law on Lawyers Conference for launching the draft law in partnership with the IBA	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
▪ Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training - Basrah	▪ Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training - Basrah					
31	January 1	2	3	4	5	6
		▪ 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	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	▪ Law School Legal Clinic Best Practices with Dr. Mohammad Matar - Erbil	▪ Law School Legal Clinic Best Practices with Dr. Mohammad Matar - Erbil				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		▪ C1 Media Coordination Seminar in Partnership with IREX in Baghdad		▪ Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training - Erbil	▪ Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training - Erbil	

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
▪	▪ Iraqi National Moot Court Competition in Erbil	▪ Iraqi National Moot Court Competition in Erbil ▪ C1 Seminar for NGO Partners - Increased understanding of the real needs of stakeholders in partnership with IREX - Baghdad	▪ Iraqi National Moot Court Competition in Erbil	▪	▪	▪
28	29	30	31	February 1	2	3
▪ New Grantee Kick-Launch Event/Training - Erbil	▪ New Grantee Financial Management, Procurement and Personnel Procedures Training - Erbil	▪ New Grantee Financial Management, Procurement and Personnel Procedures Training - Erbil	▪ New Grantee Financial Management, Procurement and Personnel Procedures Training - Erbil	▪ New Grantee Financial Management, Procurement and Personnel Procedures Training - Erbil	▪	▪
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
▪ Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training - Basrah	▪ Grant RFA and Proposal Writing Training – Basrah	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪

USAID Recommended to attend events circled in RED