

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

WEEKLY REPORT #58

December 17, 2011 – December 23, 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

The sixth in a series of trainings organized by IA2J, in coordination with IREX, was held in Baghdad for 22 participants from Iraqi government ministries and A2J grantee organizations that regularly participate in the course. This particular training introduced the participants to the significance of visual imaging in conveying their messages more effectively. The trainer explained the concept of “a picture speaks a thousand words,” with the help of captivating images. The participants were also provided with in-depth knowledge of technical aspects of photography in addition to the strategic training of how to use images in their media campaigns. The participants expressed that they particularly benefitted from the course in that it improved their photography skills, as well as taught them that a good photo can often make a stronger impact than a long written article or feature, and can also enhance the impact of written materials.



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

Awareness-raising for vulnerable communities on their legal rights and entitlements is one of the main objectives of the Iraq Access to Justice Program. Currently, each approved grantee has a public awareness component in the form of public awareness raising campaigns. To ensure that campaigns are well executed, the Component 1 team has conducted various training courses for grantees that help in building their capacity in audience analysis, message development, and appropriate messaging tool selection. The team has also conducted monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of the campaigns. This week, a three-day training on Strategic Communication Planning was held for grantees based in the Kurdistan Region and was attended by ten participants from five grantee organizations. The participants found the training to be a helpful tool in the implementation and monitoring of their campaigns funded by IA2J.



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

A2J is currently supporting 12 awareness-raising campaigns that are being implemented by grantees in different parts of the country. The team provides mentoring support and ensures quality and compliance by requesting each grantee to send their implementation plans and awareness raising materials to the Public Awareness and Outreach team for feedback, recommendations, and approvals before rolling out the materials. Feedback and comments are provided on the effectiveness of messages, quality of design, and USAID branding and marking guidelines. Most of the grantees have rolled out their campaigns in different parts of the country through awareness raising trainings; radio and TV programs; and print materials such as: booklets, handouts, brochures, and posters. An update on the cumulative status of these campaigns is reflected in the table below:

Weekly Update of Awareness Campaigns

#	Grantee	Focus of Outreach	Qty. of Materials Printed	Qty. of Materials Distributed	Radio / TV / Web Advertisements	Awareness Trainings
1	Iraqi Al-Mortaqa Foundation for Human Development	Capacity Building in Effective Awareness Campaigning	6 Banners	6 Banners	N/A	3
2	Fatema House Charity Women	Rights of Women (Particularly Widows, Without ID)	5 Banners	5 Banners	0	14
			900 Brochures	900 Brochures		
			2000 Sacks (Contribution)	2000 Sacks (Contribution)		
3	Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid	Rights of IDPs	3500 Brochures	900 Brochures	60 Radio Advertisements	17
			1750 Posters	1200 Posters	60 TV. Advertisements	
4	Al-Malak Human Organization	Rights of Women (Particularly Widows, Without ID)	1000 Posters	1000 Posters	6 live Radio Programs (Contribution)	4
			1500 Booklets	1500 Booklets		
			3 Banners	3 Banners		
			1000 Adv. In Magazine	1000 Adv. In Magazine		



#	Grantee	Focus of Outreach	Qty. of Materials Printed	Qty. of Materials Distributed	Radio / TV / Web Advertisements	Awareness Trainings
5	College of Law and Politics, University of Salahaddin (Erbil)	Various	0	0	0	1
6	Women Empowerment Organization	Rights of Women	0	0	6 live Radio Programs	16
7	Salam Al-Rafidain Organization	Rights of Women	22 Banners 1000 Business Cards	22 Banners 750 Business Cards	N/A	6
8	Al-Rahma Humanity Association	Rights of Women (Particularly Widows, Without ID)	2000 Handbooks 10 Banners 90 Brochures	1000 Handbooks 10 Banners 90 Brochures	0	4
9	Al-Shabak Women Association	Rights of Women	5000 Poster 4000 Brochures	1500 Poster 1500 Brochures	3 Radio Advertisements	1
10	Kurdish Human Rights Watch	Rights of IDPs	4000 Booklets 3 Banners	1600 Booklets 3 Banners	Web Advertisements	4
11	Soran Association for the Care of the Handicapped (SACH)	Rights of Persons with Disabilities	1000 Posters	400 Posters	1 Radio Advertisement 6 live Radio Programs	2

Component 1 will continue to provide these updates moving forward on a weekly basis.

Component 1 is also conducting site visits in Baghdad and the Kurdistan Region to monitor grantee progress on their awareness campaigns. During this week, the team visited Salahaddin Law School and the Kurdistan Bar Association to provide mentoring support for their upcoming awareness raising campaigns.

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 attended a workshop put on by A2J Grantee, Mercy Hands, in Al-Kadhmiya, Baghdad, on December 21. The workshop was entitled, “*Displacement: Identification and the difference between internal displacement and returnees*”, and covered issues concerning IDP’s rights, marriage approval, alimony, and descendant approval. The organization offered legal advice and assistance to over 30 participants, 16 female and 15 male. At the end of the workshop, lawyers accepted 25 attendees’ cases for legal representation and 5 cases for legal consultation covering residence, compensation, and obtaining investigation papers for a victim of terrorism. Component 2 will monitor the outcome of these cases.



Component 2 met with a representative of the Iraqi Bar Association Legal Committee on December 20 to discuss progress made in writing the legal study focusing on Children’s Rights, one of five major sections of the research piece. A2J received a draft copy of this section. Other topics, including Persons with Disabilities, Women, IDPs, and Persons without Identity are still being drafted and should be ready to review soon.

The Basrah Regional Office met with seven Basrah NGOs that are potential A2J grantee partners. The NGOs were Al Anwar Humanitarian Organization, Faïd Al Rahman Organization, Miameem Humanitarian Organization, Azaheer Organization for Children’s Rights, Al Taqwa Association for Women and Children’s Rights, Qurna Women’s Association, and Hadia Society for Human Rights and Civilian Community Development. During the technical assistance meeting, the Basrah A2J team explained in depth grant objectives and how grants can assist in changing negative conditions for the targeted population.

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

#	Grantee	Location	Focus of Legal Assistance	# of Hotline Calls	# of Legal Cases
1	Iraqi Al Amal Association - Najaf Center	Najaf	Women	50	32
2	Iraqi Al Amal Association - Kirkuk Center	Kirkuk	Women	21	38
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	85	83
7	Kurdistan Human Rights Watch	Erbil – Einkawa / Khabat	IDPs	12	81
8	Soran Association for Care of the Handicapped	Erbil – Soran	Persons with Disabilities	172	53



#	Grantee	Location	Focus of Legal Assistance	# of Hotline Calls	# of Legal Cases
9	Salam Al-Rafidain	Baghdad – Yousifiya	Women	N/A	40
10	Al-Malak Human	Ninawa – Mosul	Women	38	30
11	Al-Shabak Women's Organization	Ninawa - Bartallah	Women	63	44

Note: 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.

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 continuing legal education (CLE) for lawyers, pre-service and orientation training for new lawyers, and targeted training on assisting specific vulnerable groups

There was now new activity this week with regards to training of lawyers, however, the cumulative number of lawyers trained by the Access to Justice Program through Bar Association partners is indicated in the table here below:

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

#	Grantee	Focus of Lawyer Training	# of Training Sessions	# of Trainees
1	Kurdistan Bar Association	Human Rights Awareness	1	25
2	Iraqi Bar Association	Human Rights Awareness	9	590

Note: 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.

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 Chief of Party and Component 2 met with Dr. Jamal Ibrahim Al-Haydry, the new Dean of Baghdad Law School, and Dr. Salah Hadi, his Deputy, on December 19. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss legal clinic issues and the partnership between Baghdad Law School and A2J in starting up a legal clinic. The new Dean was enthusiastic about the idea of legal clinics and indicated the importance of such projects to help law school students gain practical experience in the law, in additions to other merits, such as increasing citizens’ confidence in the legal profession. The Dean indicated that preparations made to date in starting up the legal clinic should remain on track. The importance of strengthening the Iraqi Bar Association and Baghdad Law School relationship was also discussed. When mentioning the need to increase the number of women lawyers practicing in the courts, which remains low despite almost equal numbers of

women and men in law school, the Dean said that most women leave work in the courts due to sexual harassment by police officers.

The Baghdad Law School is expected to begin establishing their legal clinic on January 1st to be ready for the spring semester. There was a delay in their implementation during the fall semester due to bank information not being available and changes in the leadership of the Law School. Salahaddin Law School legal clinic is underway, and the Basrah Law School legal clinic grant has not been awarded yet due to difficulties that the law school there has in establishing a separate bank account. Access to Justice is attempting to provide assistance to the Basrah Law School through the Assistant Dean of the Baghdad Law School who is able to instruct the Basrah Law School how to establish the bank account.

The activities of the three pilot law schools to date are outlined here below:

**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 (Currently or have completed) in the Legal Clinic Practical	# of Courses / Trainings Relevant to Legal Clinical Education	# of Students in Legal Clinical Education Courses
1	Salahaddin Law School (Erbil)	Various	4	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: 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 funded and supported the 2nd Conference on the draft Law of Lawyers hosted by the Iraqi Bar Association on December 22. Despite the fact that the conference took place on a morning where numerous explosions erupted across Baghdad, closing many roads, nearly half of the originally estimated 600 participants still attended. The group made changes to the draft law, but at the end of the conference they declared that all changes had now been made and all that was left to do on the draft was editing. Key to the concerns of vulnerable groups was adoption of *pro bono* requirements for practicing lawyers, requiring them to accept two such cases per year, targeted towards aiding vulnerable groups. The *pro bono* requirements were adopted and are something that has never before been required of Iraqi lawyers. With an estimated 50,000 practicing lawyers in Iraq, the impact on legal assistance for members of vulnerable groups could be significant. The draft Law of Lawyers also incorporated new Continuing Legal Education (CLE) requirements at the urging of A2J so that practicing licensed lawyers remain current on changes in law and practice.



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

Component 3 held a Disabilities Law Roundtable in Baghdad on December 17th to discuss what kinds of issues needed to be addressed by the government to create a better legal environment for Persons with Disabilities that ensure access to fundamental rights. Among topics discussed were Iraq's likely upcoming accession to the 2006 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the closely related Draft Law on the Rights of People with Disabilities. The focus was to demonstrate how the CRPD obligations relate to the laws of the 15 provinces and the Kurdistan Region, both of which will be bound by the requirements of the convention upon accession, and to discuss how such obligations have been treated and met internationally.



A group of Iraqi NGOs active in the field of Persons with Disabilities Rights were in attendance, among which was the Iraqi Alliance for Disabilities Organizations as well as KURDS, both of which are directly supported by the Program. Government participation included representatives from the Ministries of Health, Human Rights, and Justice, as well as the Council of Ministers Secretariat, all of whom made interesting and revealing presentations. The Karbala office of UNAMI was represented as well.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

The Grants Team is focused on preparing upcoming RFA workshops in Erbil, Baghdad, and Basrah. The Basrah Regional Office and the grants team are discussing strategies to reach new potential NGO partners in Nasiriyah and Amarah in southern Iraq.

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.

A baseline survey of all A2J staff to assess their level of gender awareness and capacity to address gender issues has been completed. Also completed were interviews with all A2J management.

Result 5.2: Strengthened Capacity of Project Staff to Integrate Gender in to All Project Components.

The vulnerable population that will be the subject of the first value chain analysis has been identified and is widows. As for the Gender Assessment, the value chain analysis requires a desk review of A2J program documents; gender and A2J reports; and gender, value chain, and value networks literature. All have been accomplished.

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

Grants Manager, McKinley Posely, completed his contract and departed post on December 18. A replacement candidate has been identified and is awaiting USAID approval.

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	▪ C1 Strategic Communication Plan Training in Baghdad	▪ C1 Strategic Communication Plan Training in Baghdad	▪ C1 Strategic Communication Plan Training in Baghdad	▪	▪
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
▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
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	▪ 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	▪	▪
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**