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برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

WEEKLY REPORT #56

December 3, 2011 – December 9, 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 3.1 Provide training, technical and/or material assistance to partner organizations to conduct public outreach or needs assessments

Component 1 completed the second part of the training on 'New Social Media', in coordination with IREX. The training was attended by a total of 11 participants from the NGO Directorate, Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid, Fatema House, Salam Al-Rafidain Organization, Iraq Al-Mortaqa Foundation and the Iraqi Alliance for Disabilities Organization (IADO). The main training objective was to introduce the participants to ways of implementing awareness raising campaigns by using social networks targeting larger audiences.

The trainer, Ms. Dina Najim, a famous Iraqi blogger and social media activist, started by defining the types of modern social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and You Tube) and explained the techniques of creating and managing accounts on these sites. The trainer explained the concept to the participants by using samples of popular awareness raising campaigns that have achieved success by using social networks. Participants expressed great interest in the topics especially since only five of them had Facebook accounts and had not been using their accounts in a way to achieve their objectives.

Result 1.4: Effective Monitoring and Evaluation of implementing partner public awareness campaigns

- Component 1 Team reviewed print materials for Women Empowerment Organization which needed to be adjusted according to the USAID marking and branding policy. The team also approved a list of suggested radio stations for Al-Amal Organization to be used for their ongoing awareness raising campaign.
- Component 1 Team participated in providing comments and assessments on summary grant applications for eight NGOs submitted by the grants team.

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 and the M&E Specialist conducted site visits to NGO grantee partners, Mercy Hands and Al-Rahma, who are implementing legal aid clinics for IDPs and Women (legal consultation and representation). The team met with the NGO Managers, Projects Managers and other staff in their offices to conduct a baseline assessment of services provided and to ascertain their capacity development needs.



LEFT: Access to Justice Site visit to Mercy Hands; RIGHT: Site visit to Al-Rahma

- The Component 2 Team Leader and the Erbil Regional Office conducted site visits to Access to Justice grantees, Kurdish Human Rights Watch Legal Assistance Center in Khabat, and the legal clinic in Women’s Empowerment Organization NGO. The purpose of the visits was to assess the work done to date by these clinics and to assess their training needs. By way of background information, the center works on the eight most common issues facing IDPs in the KRG, and have developed a booklet that discusses what these issues are, and how the IDPs can gain assistance on resolving these issues. The types of cases are:
 - Residency card
 - ID/Jensiya
 - ID certificate
 - Birth certificate
 - Public Distribution System
 - Passport
 - Marriage Certificate/contract
 - Driver’s License



The grantee has developed clear policies and procedures, and has a good grasp of their scope of work, their target beneficiaries, and how to conduct legal assistance. The clinic has strong systems in place though their legal clinic case cycle, which lays out policies and procedures for the life of a case, from reception to follow-up. They see an average of 3 IDPs a day, and they receive these cases through a combination of awareness raising sessions, advertising, and referrals that they get from the IDP committee in the Mayor’s office, as well as from other sources. The clinic staff conduct regular field visits where they meet with IDPs (up to 3-4 families a day) to see if they have any issues that could be solved. They have created a useful

database for storing information on their cases, and have a very good grasp of interviewing techniques, project planning and implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

The majority of cases seen do not require legal representation in court, rather, they are procedural issues, such as how to obtain a food ration (PDS) card. To date 33 cases have cycled through the clinic, of these 8 required legal representation in court.

- Component 2 Team Leader, Erbil Regional Office Director, COP, and DCOP met with Acting Erbil Consulate USAID Representative, Michael Jordan, and the Consulate DOJ Resident Legal Advisor to discuss the Access to Justice program, and to ensure clear lines of communication in the Kurdish Region.
- Component 2 Team Leader, COP, and DCOP met with Marc-Antoine Morel, Rule of Law Project Manager, Mark Aiken, Senior Technical Advisor and Shawki Younis, Project Officer from UNDP Rule of Law/Access to Justice to discuss communication and coordination between the two programs, and to informally share information on lessons learned regarding implementation of legal clinics in Iraq.

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

- Component 2 met with the Iraqi Bar Association (IBA) to provide technical assistance on how to structure their ongoing grant-funded research on Iraqi laws related to vulnerable populations. The team offered guidance on further resources to consult in order to make the study more robust, including reports from the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights from 2009 and 2010.
- On December 3, 2011, the Erbil Regional Office assisted the Kurdistan Bar Association in holding its first workshop for new lawyers on how to assist vulnerable groups in society, codes of conduct for lawyers, and how to be a human rights lawyer. Twenty-five lawyers attended the workshop.



KBA representative and Mr. Kareem Bahry, the trainer for the 1st KBA Lawyers' training session sponsored by the Access to Justice Grant

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 Erbil Regional Office conducted Erbil field site visits and meetings with Baghdad DOJ RLA Leslie Ohta, the Kurdistan Bar Association, Salahaddin Law School, Kurdistan Judges Association, and the Kurdistan Jurists Union in preparation for the Jessup International Moot Court Competition.
- On December 5, 2011, the Legal Clinic and Faculty of Law at University of Salahaddin in Erbil, held the first workshop for 15 students at the last stage of their education. A number of legal issues were covered such as: the importance of the clinic and of the students to it; human rights issues; lawyers codes of conduct; how to start practicing as a lawyer; and how to take cases in order to help vulnerable groups in society.

COMPONENT 3 – ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Result 3.2: Mechanisms created for dialogue between government and NGOs/CSOs on improving policies, laws, and regulations for facilitating access to justice for vulnerable populations.

- Component 3 is studying a draft law on the Union of Iraqi Jurists and examining ways to help vulnerable groups under it.
- Component 3 is coordinating with the Iraqi Bar Association (IBA) to prepare the final version of the draft Law on Lawyers, and to invite participants for the second conference to be held on December 22, 2011.

- Component 3 is coordinating with government counterparts to plan a roundtable on current rights and new developments under the Law of Persons with Disabilities to be held on December 17, 2011.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

- The Grants Team received five new grant applications for the November Cycle. These were forwarded to the Grant Evaluation Committee (GEC) for technical review and approval.
- The Grants manager sent notifications to NGOs who submitted Grant Summary Forms for the November Cycle. NGOs whose Grant Summary Forms were not selected for submission to the GEC for technical review had theirs returned with review comments. The NGOs were directed to revise their Grant Summary Forms according to the comments and resubmit them for the next grants cycle.
- The Grants Team has been busy making final preparations for the Quarterly Partners Progress meeting to be held in Erbil on December 14 -15, 2011. All Access to Justice Grantees and Partners will meet to discuss progress, problems, lessons learned and adjustments that need to be made in the Program. Agenda attached.
- NGO Coordinators received and reviewed grantee financial and progress reports for Al-Mortaqa, Salam Al-Rafidain, Al Rahma, and Mercy Hands. Also, NGO Grant Coordinators conducted a site visit to Al-Rahma Association and assisted the grantee in properly completing the financial and progress report with all the required monitoring and evaluation forms. The NGO Coordinators sent timesheet templates to Grantees to be used for documenting payment of grantee staff salaries.
- The Erbil Regional Office conducted risk assessments at three Sulaymaniyah NGOs: Hataw, CDO, and Butan.



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 Integration Specialist continued interviews for the Gender Assessment and a list of documents needed for review has been prepared. Interviews with NGOs are also being scheduled but security concerns necessitate that some may have to be rescheduled to take place at the Access to Justice offices, if feasible.

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

Administration/HR/IT

All Access to Justice Team expat staff participated in a five-day team building and resiliency workshop held in Erbil. Senior Technical Advisor, GERALYN Busnardo, also participated in the program conducted by the U.S.-based Headington Institute.

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
November 12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Sulymaniya 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Sulymaniya C3 Small Roundtable led by Component 3 on NGO-based strategizing for a strong Social Welfare Law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CI/IREX - Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training –Dohuk CI/IREX - Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training –Dohuk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDP Workshop held in partnership with USAID-PHC Program on Mansour Compound – 10am 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<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">
26	27	28	29	30	December 1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training –Erbil Grants Management Training in Finance, Procurement, and Personnel Policy, and Procedures for New Grantees–Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training –Erbil Grants Management Training in Finance, Procurement, and Personnel Policy, and Procedures for New Grantees–Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CI Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination Grants Management Training in Finance, Procurement, and Personnel Policy, and Procedures for New Grantees–Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CI Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination Grants Management Training in Finance, Procurement, and Personnel Policy, and Procedures for New Grantees–Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CI Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination Grants Management Training in Finance, Procurement, and Personnel Policy, and Procedures for New Grantees–Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

▪	▪ Stress Resilience, Wellness and Teambuilding Workshop for expatriate staff	▪ Stress Resilience, Wellness and Teambuilding Workshop for expatriate staff	▪ Stress Resilience, Wellness and Teambuilding Workshop for expatriate staff	▪ Stress Resilience, Wellness and Teambuilding Workshop for expatriate staff	▪ Stress Resilience, Wellness and Teambuilding Workshop for expatriate staff	▪
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
▪	▪	▪	▪	▪ First Quarterly Partners' Meeting	▪ First Quarterly Partners' Meeting ▪ NGO Partner Roundtable with Mara Rudman, USAID Deputy Administrator	▪
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
▪ C3 Roundtable on Disabilities Law Reform	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪ Law on Lawyers Conference for launching the draft law in partnership with the IBA	▪
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				▪ Third targeted grants training for groups active in advocacy (Component 3 and Grants Team) Day 1 of 2	▪ Third targeted grants training for groups active in advocacy (Component 3 and Grants Team) Day 2 of 2	

USAID Recommended to attend events circled in RED