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برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

WEEKLY REPORT #55

November 26, 2011 – December 2, 2011

December, 2011

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by ARD, Inc., through its operating unit Tetra Tech DPK.

Contract: 267-C-00-10-00006-00

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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.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Kick-Off Meeting for New Grantees, followed by the Grants Management Training Workshop, took place in Erbil at the Van Royal Hotel on November 26–30. The event was attended by 32 officers and staff (10 female, 22 male) from 10 NGOs, the Basrah Law School, and the Iraqi Bar Association. The event provides an opportunity to introduce the Program technical staff to partners and present the Program’s objectives and activities.



COMPONENT 1 - IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE OF LEGAL REMEDIES

Capacity Building for Communication Campaigns

Result 1.3: Practical knowledge of vulnerable populations of how to access and use tools improved through traditional and social media.

Component 1 team presented a briefing about the role of the Public Awareness and Outreach Department, and also gave a short, but effective, description about how to apply USAID Branding and Marking rules on future awareness materials at the Grantee Kickoff meeting.

Task: Coordination with IREX: Training of NGOs, CSOs and Government on effective tools for information dissemination, use of traditional and new media and media campaigns

On November 28-30, Component 1, in collaboration with IREX, completed the fourth training program in a series for NGOs, CSOs and government ministries on effective tools for information dissemination, use of traditional and new media, and media campaigns. The topic of this program was, New Social Media, and was attended by 12 participants (8 male and 4 female) from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Human Rights, and Iraqi Al-Mortaqa Foundation for Human Development, one of A2J’s grantees.

The trainer, Miss Dina Najim, a famous Iraqi blogger and social media activist, trained the participants on how to use social network sites like Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter to communicate with people easily and quickly. Training on modern electronic media was a first for

some of the participants and many had been hesitant about using new media. The participants expressed their satisfaction with the content of the training.



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

This week the Component 1 team reviewed and approved print materials for Iraq Al Amal Association and Soran's Association for the Care of the Handicapped.

The Team started field site visits for three grantee events this week. The main purpose of the visits was to ensure that the awareness raising materials used are in compliance with USAID branding and marking regulations, which was the case, and to guarantee that the message of the campaign reaches the targeted group.

The first visit was on November 26th for Fatima House Organization for their Women's Rights Awareness Raising Workshop in Sadr City, Baghdad.



The second visit was for the public awareness workshop for IDPs on their legal rights under Iraqi law, conducted by Mercy Hands in Zaafaraniyah District, Baghdad, on Wednesday, November 30th.



The third visit was for Al-Mortaqa's first day of training on "Planning and Managing Awareness Raising Campaigns" at the Lebanese Club in Baghdad on Wednesday, November 30th.



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 Component 2 Team Leader introduced the Iraq Access to Justice Program on behalf of the COP, and the Legal Education Advisor gave a presentation on Component 2 activities at the Grantee Kickoff Meeting.

- Component 2, in cooperation with the GOI NGO Directorate, completed a 2-day Strategic Planning workshop at the NGO Directorate from November 29-30. Representatives from 18 NGOs attended the training (9 female and 9 male), along with two representatives from the NGO Directorate. The training included a discussion of the necessity of strategic planning and its principles, as well as the concept of a smart target and how to analyze it.



- The Component 2 Team Leader attended a Legal Aid Manual consultation workshop on November 28-29 in Erbil, hosted by WEO and UNDP. The purpose of the workshop was to review the draft of a comprehensive legal aid manual created by WEO with UNDP funding through Heartland Alliance. The manual is designed to bridge the gap between theory and practice, and provide information and help to lawyers who work with disadvantaged groups in clinical legal settings in the Kurdistan Region. The Component 2 Team Leader discussed with Mark Aiken, UNDP Senior Technical Advisor for Rule of Law and Access to Justice, about A2J utilizing the manual as a base document from which to develop and roll out training for legal clinics and for lawyers. The Component 2 Team Leader is planning on conducting a follow-up meeting in Erbil during the next week with UNDP representatives.
- The Component 2 Team and the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist conducted technical monitoring site visits to legal clinics at Mercy Hands and Al-Rahma NGOs. These NGOs, located in the Karada district of Baghdad, are implementing grants under the purview of Component 2. The assessment team noticed that with Al-Rahma, although they are receiving

cases and performing assistance, organization and record keeping needs significant improvement. Mercy Hands, as well, is performing workshops, consultations, and answering hotline inquiries, but data that the organization is providing lacks sufficient detail. Component 2, as a result, is making a point to assist organizations to ensure that they provide more details on the types of cases that they are working on and the processes by which they are addressing needs.

Result 2.2: Work with Iraqi legal professional associations (primarily the Iraqi Bar Association and Jurist Union and their subsidiaries) to increase administrative and substantive capacity for empowering lawyers and other legal professionals to assist vulnerable or disadvantaged populations

- The Component 2 Legal Education Advisor met Mr. Zamil Al-Saa'di, Head of the IBA Center for Citizens' Complaints, on Thursday, November 29th. This follow-up meeting was to review the cases of additional people who were affected by Multi-National Forces (MNF-I) that could be referred to the USAID Marla Fund Program.
- The Component 2 Legal Education Advisor conducted a meeting between Mr. Zamil Al-Saa'di, head of the IBA Center for Citizens' Complaints, and Mr. Nawar Falah, representative of USAID-CAP III Marla Fund, on Wednesday, November 30th. The purpose of the meeting was to review all Citizens' Complaints Center files that could potentially be referred to the Marla Fund. Of 85 cases reviewed, 19 were deemed to fall under the scope of Marla Fund, specifically housing reconstruction and medical treatment, and are being reviewed by the team. The CCC will work with USAID-CAP III to create a sustainable mechanism for case referral. The Legal Advisor and an IRD representative also met with Mr. Mohammed Al-Faisal, IBA Chairman, and Miss Ahlam Rasheed, IBA Board Member and head of the IBA Human Rights Committee, to discuss the USAID-CAP III Marla Fund -IBA CCC collaboration efforts. Mr. Al-Faisal requested that a MoU be signed between the IBA and IRD in order to cement the relationship, and that the IBA Human Rights Committee also work in partnership with the Marla Fund.



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 Law Faculty Coordinator met with the IBA Legal Committee on Wednesday, November 23rd. The purpose of the meeting was to receive the first draft for review and comment of a chapter concerning the rights of the child in Iraq. The chapter is part of the research study being conducted by the IBA under an A2J grant. The drafting process is being monitored on a weekly basis in order to ensure the production of quality deliverables that meet the terms of the 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 Component 2 Law Faculty Coordinator received six entries for the Jessup International Moot Court Competition. They are:
 1. Al-Anbar Law School.
 2. Diyala Law School.
 3. Sulaymaniya Law School.
 4. Al Nahrain Law School.
 5. Kirkuk Law School.
 6. Dhi-Qar Law School.
- The Component 2 Law Faculty Coordinator met the Baghdad Law School (BLS) Dean and the Deputy Dean at the Dean’s Office to discuss the A2J grant to BLS and curriculum reform. Discussions centered on the need for BLS to open a new bank account to receive grant money, mechanisms for legal clinic implementation and activity monitoring, and the timeline for the roll-out of practical legal clinic courses which will begin for the third year students in the second semester of the current academic year. For the next academic year, BLS plans to teach practical legal clinic courses in the third and fourth year, with third year students studying how to litigate in the courts, and the fourth year students studying practical clinical legal education. There was also discussion of the need to conduct a survey of all law schools in Iraq to explain the curriculum reform process.
- The Baghdad Regional Office, in coordination with the Erbil Regional Office, facilitated a site visit for Basra Law School staff to the legal clinic at Salahadeen University in Erbil and a meeting with the Director of the legal clinic, Dr. Husain. Collaboration between Basra Law School and Salahadeen Law School was discussed, focusing on better ways of supporting the needs of vulnerable populations. Other meeting participants were the Basra Regional Director, Mr. Adel Hassan, Basra Legal Advisor, Mr. Hadi Alkindi and Erbil Legal Advisor Mr. Aras Barwari.

COMPONENT 3 – ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Result 3.1: Procedures for amending laws and regulations clarified or modified so as to allow more effective engagement for actors providing justice support and services for vulnerable populations.

- The Component 3 team has been assisting the legal committee of the Iraqi Bar Association to finalize the draft Amended Law on Lawyers for submission to the Board of Directors for final approval. This is in preparation for the 2nd Law on Lawyers Conference on December 22nd, which will provide a platform for launching the presentation of the draft law to Parliament.
- The Component 3 team has completed invitations to members of parliament and organizations that represent needs and rights of persons with disabilities for the Disability Law Roundtable to be held on December 17, 2011.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

The Kick-Off Meeting for New Grantees, followed by the Grants Management Training Workshop, took place in Erbil on November 26 – 30, 2011. The Grants Team reviewed the requirements under the Grant Agreement for progress reports, finance reports, M&E, and the Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement.

The Grants Management Training was conducted by Mr. Jassim Salim, who prepared the training based on the Financial, Procurement, and Personnel policies Manuals that Access to Justice provides to each of its Grantees to govern their grants management and administration.

At the closing of the training the Chief of Research and Studies Committee for the Iraqi Bar Association thanked the Access to Justice Program for providing such a useful training and he gave an open invitation to all the participants providing legal services to vulnerable groups to visit or contact the Iraqi Bar Association whenever they might have questions or need assistance with the legal activities of their projects.

The Grants Team prepared two Requests for Approval of grant applications from the Voice of Older People (VOP) in Dahuk and the Civil Development Organization (CDO) in Sulaymaniyah for submission to USAID. CDO will implement public awareness and legal service activities targeting women with unregistered marriages, and VOP will implement public awareness and legal services activities for victims of gender based violence.

PROGRAM SUPPORT

M&E SPECIALIST

- Attended the New Grantees Kickoff Meeting in Erbil and provided training on M&E tools required by Iraq Access to Justice Program for collecting data.
- Trained Component 2 Team on M&E.

- Updated M&E database and archives

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.

Responses from the Iraqi Program staff to the Baseline Gender Assessment are pending. Interviews are also being scheduled with expat staff for the Gender Audit.

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

Administration/HR/IT

- The Access to Justice Program continues to look for a government institution that will provide a support letter for its registration with the GOI. A2J is still making its best effort to convince the Ministry of Human Rights and the Ministry of Higher Education to provide such support.
- Procurement Officer and IT/Network Specialist commenced work on November 30, 2011. A meeting was held with a prospective local lawyer who will assist on compliance issues relating to labor law, income taxation, and social security.
- Preparations were completed for the Stress and Resiliency Building and Team Building Workshop for expat team members to be held in Erbil from December 4-8.
- Marti Troy, DCOP, arrived in Baghdad on November 29th. Geralyn Busnardo, Senior Technical Advisor, Tt DPK Consulting, arrived on the same date and will be in Iraq for three weeks facilitating improvements in program implementation.

| 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 and Teambuilding Workshop for expatriate staff | ▪ Stress Resilience and Teambuilding Workshop for expatriate staff | ▪ Stress Resilience and Teambuilding Workshop for expatriate staff | ▪ Stress Resilience and Teambuilding Workshop for expatriate staff | ▪ Stress Resilience and Teambuilding Workshop for expatriate staff | ▪ |
| 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 | ▪ | ▪ | ▪ | ▪ | ▪ 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