

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

WEEKLY REPORT #52

November 5, 2011 – November 11, 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

This week was marked by the Eid holiday for the first three days of the week. Moreover, for the two remaining days of the week that were work days, counterparts, including GOI offices and NGO representatives, were not working or out of the country. Due to this, not much is reported below as accomplished during the last week.

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 finalized preparations for assistance to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in Kurdistan in launching public awareness initiatives against Gender Based Violence and in support of a law on disabilities.
- Component 1 continued providing support to NGO grantees running public awareness media campaigns by reviewing content of messages and media.

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 created two forms to help with technical monitoring of the grants under our purview. These tools are in draft form, and will be further refined through an iterative process as we make our site visits beginning next week.
- Component 2 has received a concept paper from Kurdish Human Rights Watch (KHRW), one of the current grantees, in which they lay out ideas of how to serve as a mentoring/training NGO for other grantees. The ideas presented in the paper are well thought out and potentially extremely fruitful, and portray confidence that KHRW, given their capacity, will be able to execute the proposed work. The Component 2 Team leader will be conducting a series of site visits to KHRW in early December in order to move the process along.

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 team is researching law school curriculum reform. The team will make a visit Baghdad law school next week to meet with the president of Dean's council Dr. Ali Al-Rufaie and his deputy next week to gather information.
- Component 2 is successfully moving forward with taking on responsibility for the national rounds of the Jessup Moot Court Competition. This week Component 2 has had a series of meetings with Leslie Ohta State Department Rule of Law) who will act as the National Coordinator and Joe Terrenzio, Jessup Competition Coordinator in order to discuss logistics. We envision the competition will be held in January, in Erbil, Iraq.

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

- The team continued preparations for a small roundtable for NGOs working in the areas of vulnerable group protection to be held November 13, 2011. The roundtable will focus on strategy for passing a robust Social Welfare Law that will defend widows, orphans, and other vulnerable groups. This is being organized in close partnership with Access to Justice strategic partner and grantee, Al-Amal Organization. The meeting will be attended in addition by representatives from USAID and Legislative Strengthening Program.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

- The Grant Team was out for most of the week celebrating the Eid Holidays. As a result, there was not a lot of activity for the week. However, the Grants Team is busy making preparations for two Training Workshops in November. First is the RFA Workshop to be held in Erbil on November 13 and 14, 2011, which will provide training for NGO participants from the provinces of Erbil, Dohuk, Sulaimaniyah, and Kirkuk. And, the second one is the Kick-Off Meeting and Grants Management Training in Erbil on November 26 – 30 for new Grantees and Partners.

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

Administration/HR/IT

The week was a short week given the observance of Eid Al Adha. Nevertheless significant items under Operations unit are as follows:

- The Program and its legal advisors, TRC, are still discussing how to move forward in the registration process. The Ministry of Human Rights refused to sign a letter of support for the Program due to new directions given by the Council of Ministers. The Program is now turning to the Ministry of Higher Education and the Baghdad University for support, following the award of the grant to Baghdad Law School. The Program hopes to obtain a letter of support within the week following the Eid Holiday in order to complete the registration process.
- Recruitment for the following positions still on-going: Administrative Officer; Finance Assistant; Procurement Officer; and NGO Coordinator.
- The Program's request to for an extension of the waiver for the DSA rate applicable to Basrah has been approved last November 9, 2011 with an effective covering until March 31, 2012.
- The Program is negotiating with the number two candidate for the Erbil Regional Director. Expected start date has been moved to November 14.
- Preparations are underway for the budget realignment expected to be submitted on the first week of December.

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
November 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
EID Holiday	EID Holiday	EID Holiday	EID Holiday	▪	▪	▪
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
▪ 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. 	▪ C1/IREX - Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Duhok ▪ C1/IREX - Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination 	▪ Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Duhok	▪	▪
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
▪	▪ Grants Management Training in Finance, Procurement, and Personnel Policy, and Procedures for New Grantees–Erbil	▪ Grants Management Training in Finance, Procurement, and Personnel Policy, and Procedures for New Grantees–Erbil	▪ Grants Management Training in Finance, Procurement, and Personnel Policy, and Procedures for New Grantees–Erbil	▪ Grants Management Training in Finance, Procurement, and Personnel Policy, and Procedures for New Grantees–Erbil	▪ Grants Management Training in Finance, Procurement, and Personnel Policy, and Procedures for New Grantees–Erbil	▪
26	27	28	29	30	December 1	2
▪ Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training –Erbil	▪ Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training –Erbil	▪ CI Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination	▪ CI Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination	▪ CI Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination	▪	▪



3	4	5	6	7	8	9
▪	▪ Psycho-social Training for selected team members	▪ Psycho-social Training for selected team members	▪			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
▪	▪	▪	▪	▪ First Quarterly Partners' Meeting	▪ First Quarterly Partners' Meeting	▪
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
▪ C3 Roundtable on Disabilities Law Reform	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
▪	▪	▪	▪	▪ Third targeted grants training for groups active in advocacy (Component 3 and Grants Team) Day 1of 2	▪ Third targeted grants training for groups active in advocacy (Component 3 and Grants Team) Day 2of 2	▪

USAID Recommended to attend events circled in RED