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برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

WEEKLY REPORT #50

October 22, 2011 – October 28, 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.

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

The grants stocktaking exercise culminated in a presentation of the key recommendations to the USAID Contracting Officer and CO Technical Representative. All of the Access to Justice staff participated in the exercise, which resulted in a detailed action plan for how to get both the big picture vision and detailed tactical infrastructure of the grants program on track after some missteps during year one.

COMPONENT I - IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE OF LEGAL REMEDIES

RESULT I.1 PROVIDE TRAINING, TECHNICAL AND/OR MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS TO CONDUCT PUBLIC OUTREACH OR NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

- 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

After the first successful trainings on Communication Strategies and Market Research, Access to Justice and IREX agreed to replicate the training course in the Kurdistan Region. The team met with the IREX team to discuss and finalize another collaborative effort for the next quarter starting from February 2012. An MOU, detailing the responsibilities of the two organizations is under preparation and will be signed soon. Meanwhile the component team met with NGO and Legal Advisor of Erbil Regional Office to start finalizing lists of participants and logistics arrangements accordingly.

- Task: Strategic Communication Planning Trainings for approved grantees on designing, planning and implementation of Awareness Raising Campaigns for vulnerable groups

The program developed a Strategic Communication Plan (SCP) and associated training packages to assist grantees in designing and implementing effective awareness raising campaigns. In order to finalize the preparation for the training courses, the team is developing Terms of Reference for a facilitator to deliver the trainings. The 12 trainings which will be spread over a period of 6 months are expected to start by the end of November 2011.

RESULT I.2 PROVIDE TRAINING, TECHNICAL AND/OR MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS TO CONDUCT PUBLIC OUTREACH OR NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

- Task: Trainings on Advanced Communications Skills and media campaigns for government employees and approved grantees

The team was debriefed by Iraqi Al-Mortaqa Foundation for Human Development on their one-week training last week, titled "Awareness Campaigns, Planning and Management." According to participant evaluation forms, the training course was useful for their professional as well personal lives. Their expectations regarding the trainings were exceeded and they look forward to applying the newly learned tools in their work. Ms. Donia Fowad from the Ministry of Human Rights noted that the best thing she learned in the training was how to set determine goals and develop awareness raising campaigns to achieve them. Al-Mortaqa Foundation is in the process of compiling a detailed report of the event. The next training is scheduled to be held in the later part of November 2011.



RESULT 1.4: EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTING PARTNER PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

The component team is actively engaged on a continuous basis in providing support to and mentoring approved grantees on their awareness raising campaigns. The grantees are regularly sending draft designs and contents of awareness raising materials for input and approval. The team is also receiving requests for waivers for using USAID logos on the materials that need to be displayed in public areas of high security risk areas. Those requests are being considered according to ADS 320 guidelines and the agreed branding and marking plan in the program contract.

Component One Leader and Gender Specialist met Dr. Salim Al-Jabouri, Chair of the Human Rights Committee at the Parliament. He requested Access to Justice assistance on a public awareness campaign on the topic of the rights of people with disabilities, in light of the fact that the Parliament is expected to accede to the UN Convention by the end of 2011. The possibility of combining the public awareness campaign for Parliament with a public awareness campaign for the Ministry of Human Rights is being discussed as well.

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 received a list from the Baghdad NGO Directorate of NGOs engaged in activities relating to the Iraq Access to Justice Program's objectives who have re-registered in Iraq accordance with the new Law No. 12, 2010. This list will assist Component 2 in identifying potential NGOs that could benefit from Access to Justice capacity-building assistance.

On October 22, Component 2 team met with staff from the Basrah Regional Office (BRO) and Erbil Regional Office (ERO) regarding ways of identifying potential NGOs to work with. The Baghdad team provided BRO and ERO with the above-referenced NGO Directorate list. Also discussed was strengthening program coordination with the NGO Directorate through their sub-offices in ERO and Basrah.

A capacity building training in strategic planning was conducted in Sulaymaniya on October 24-25. In attendance were representatives from NGOs who had participated in Program training on RFA Grant training. Thirteen people, six of which were female attended the training, which was held in Dawa Hotel.

The Component 2 team worked on the mechanism to manage and monitor the implementation of grant activities related to Component 2 activities.



In ERO, a strategic planning workshop was held in Sulaymaniya on October 24-25, in which 14 NGOs participated. In addition, ERO coordinated with Ms. Awat Baker, the coordinator from KRG NGO directorate, to plan a visit to their office next week. This directorate is the primary point of contact with the United Nations Agencies and other international organizations, and it works to strengthen and develop coordination between the KRG and these entities.

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

Component 2 team and the ERO Legal Advisor met Mr. Ali Al-Shemary, the IJU chairman on Tuesday Oct. 25 in the IJU office. In this meeting A2J staff discussed developing the relationship between A2J and IJU. Mr. Shemary appreciated A2J efforts to achieve cooperation between the two unions. Suggestions on a way forward in this regard made by Mr. Al-Shemary include: Working with A2J to implement a joint program with the Judicial Institute; working on the draft IJU law; development of the IJU website; and, training for legal advisors in GOI (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in Baghdad). IJU will come to the A2J office for a follow-up meeting on Oct 27 to discuss potential ways to move forward with C2 on the above issues.

Component 2 Legal Education Advisor and ERO Legal Advisor met Mr. Mohammed Al-Faisal the IBA Chairman on Tuesday Oct. 26 at the IBA office. Mr. Al-Faisal expressed his appreciation for A2J efforts to facilitate joint meetings between the IBA and the KBA. Mr. Faisal mentioned that the IBA will implement a training course in cooperation with Chihan Law School in Erbil to educate Iraqi lawyers on a number of subjects including Legal Aid. Mr. Al-Faisal asked if A2J could support this type of training course with IBA cooperation. The vision being a series of courses, each training 50 lawyers nominated from other Iraqi provinces. The possibility of this is being considered.

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 participated in this week's grants training for advocacy NGOs. Applicants were informed regarding the types of grant activities that are compatible with Component 3 and plans for advocacy courses in the spring were tentatively scheduled. Component 3 continued to identify and vet relevant advocacy NGOs suggested by the NGO Directorate. This is one of three sessions planned on advocacy in the next 2-3 months, the second of which will occur next week.

To support the meeting planned for November 2 on Iraqi identity documentation for persons outside of Iraq, Component 3 prepared and submitted a draft agenda to the Civil Affairs Directorate of COMSEC. As a separate initiative, a meeting has been scheduled with the Civil Affairs Directorate of COMSEC to introduce responsible NGOs to discuss the issue of people without identification in Iraq.

Component 3 supported the grant selection process, and assisted IADO in finalizing its grant application.

In ERO, we contacted the KBA to get an update on the current status of the recommendations submitted by A2J; the KBA has not yet met on the recommendations but intends to in the coming weeks.

RESULT 3.2: COALITIONS, HOTLINES, OR OTHER POSITIVE LINKAGES TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Component 3 arranged for the nomination of a number of A2J government partners in vulnerable group efforts to receive English language training.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

The Grants Team Capacity Building Specialist completed an "RFA, Grants Process, and Proposal Writing" Workshop in the Access to Justice Conference Room on October 26-27. There were 19 participants from 10 different NGOs.

The Grant Evaluation Committee, comprised from representatives of all Program components and a representative from the Erbil Regional Office, met to review eight grant applications from the first cycle of the A2J competitive grant process. Two of the applicants were selected to be sent to the COTR for approval. Five were tabled so that Component Leaders could provide technical assistance to the NGOs to improve, revise, and resubmit their applications, and, one was rejected for its unsuitability to the Access to Justice Program activities.

The first payment requests for Baghdad Law School and Fatima House were sent to Home Office for processing.

PROGRAM SUPPORT UNIT

Media Specialist

The Media Specialist (MS) provided technical assistance to the Deputy Director of the NGO Directorate on the implementation of the campaign on the 90-day government extension for NGOs re-registration. The Directorate accepted the Program's guidance and has approached the Iraqi Media Network for quick gain media advertising on *Iraqia* national TV and newspaper *Al-Sabah*, and placing advertisements on the home page of the Directorate. Remaining to do: Press conference, SMS circulation and outdoor advertising.

The Media Specialist is preparing documents necessary for the agreement the Access to Justice Program intends to execute with the NGO Directorate to update their website and database. The documents include a detailed project development agenda to include with proposed letter of intent.

Made final revisions to the Arabic templates developed for the Access to Justice Website to be ready for approval next week.

M&E SPECIALIST

The M&E Specialist completed training for nine grantees on properly completing and submitting the M&E forms required under each grant agreement. The training was for two hours and will be replicated for grantees in the Erbil region.

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.

5.1.1 Gender Assessment/Stocktaking:

The Gender Integration Specialist met with the Warden of Rusafa Prison, Block 6B. This meeting was an informal one. As such, the Warden is willing to continue discussions on gender, the prison system and other related matters. However, she requested that a formal request be made to her Director General or to the Minister of Justice. A request by the Gender Integration Specialist will be prepared in the upcoming week.

RESULT 5.6: MORE THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF IRAQI GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

5.6.1 Mapping of Government Ministries and power base of other key individuals.

The Gender Integration Specialist continued working on a PowerPoint presentation on the Iraqi legal system. This tool should be of benefit to the Access to Justice Project, especially Components 1 and 2.

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

ADMINISTRATION/HR/IT

We met with TRC and accordingly have revised a strategy in seeking support letter from the Ministry of Human Rights. Instead, we will approach through the Baghdad Law School instead. A draft support letter is being prepared for review by TRC prior to finalization.

The vetting process is underway for the selected candidate for the Erbil Regional Director. Pending the process, the candidate is expected to start on November 1, 2011.

The new Contracts Manager started on October 16. Interviews for the Law Faculty Coordinator, Citizen Advocacy Advisor, Training Specialist and NGO Coordinator are in progress. The interview process for the positions of Administrative Officer and Finance Assistant did not yield qualified candidates. A new Procurement Officer is being recruited.

Annual Inventory Report for submission to USAID on October 31, 2011 is being finalized.

BASRAH REGIONAL OFFICE

Basrah Regional Office (BRO) prepared the draft list of the NGOs who will be invited to the upcoming training workshop on “Proposal Writing and Grant Process.” This workshop will be conducted on November 5-6 in cooperation with the Grants team.

The Finance & Administrative Manager provided training to the Basrah Office Manager on procurement procedures. The training was focused on the key areas of the procurement cycle.

ERBIL REGIONAL OFFICE

Attended the strategic planning workshop in Sulymaniya and provided logistical support.

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
October 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		USAID Fraud awareness training on Mansour Compound – attended by all components, Grants and Finance	CI Awareness Raising Campaigns by Grantees: Start up meeting in Erbil	Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Erbil CI Meetings with KRG Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Ministry of Women Partners meeting in Erbil to discuss the Kurdistan Law on Lawyers draft	Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Erbil	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Sulaymaniya C2 New lawyer Training in IBA ICSSI NGO Conference – Attended by the Erbil Access to Justice Program Regional Director & NGO Advisor	Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Sulaymaniya C2 New lawyer Training in IBA ICSSI NGO Conference – Attended by the Erbil Access to Justice Program Regional Director & NGO Advisor	CI Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination Erbil Access to Justice Program team/USAID Baghdad-Erbil team – meeting in Sulaymaniya with 3 NGOs	Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Dahouk CI Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination Erbil Access to Justice Program staff meeting with USAID Baghdad-Erbil team - meeting in Erbil office	Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Dahouk CI Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination Erbil Access to Justice Program team/USAID Baghdad-Erbil team – meeting with Salahaddin Law Faculty	C3 COMSEC meeting for connecting the MOH Birth and Death certificates to the MOI for the Jinsiya Issue – 10 AM C2 Site Visit to Al-Amal Organization in Najaf	

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training - Basrah	<p>CI Series of Trainings on Advanced Communication Skills for Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Grantees</p> <p>Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Basrah</p> <p>C1 Training for Ministry of Human Rights on Running Media Campaigns Provided by Grantee Al-Murtaqa – Rukn Jadriya Hotel in Karrada – Day 1</p>	<p>C1 Series of Trainings on Advanced Communication Skills for Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Grantees</p> <p>C2 NGOs Directorate (for training Sub. and the NGOs candidates list)</p> <p>C1 Training Provided by Grantee Al-Murtaqa – Rukn Jadriya Hotel in Karrada – Day 2</p>	<p>C1 Series of Trainings on Advanced Communication Skills for Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Grantees</p> <p>C2 New Lawyers Training (IBA)</p> <p>C1 Training for Ministry of Human Rights on Running Media Campaigns Provided by Grantee Al-Murtaqa – Rukn Jadriya Hotel in Karrada – Day 3</p>	<p>C2 New Lawyers Training (IBA)</p> <p>C1 Training for Ministry of Human Rights on Running Media Campaigns Provided by Grantee Al-Murtaqa – Rukn Jadriya Hotel in Karrada – Day 4</p>	<p>C2 Meeting with Basra regional Office in Baghdad/ NGOs Capacity Building training</p> <p>Grants Stocktaking Exercise with IA2J, DPK and LBG Home Office Staff</p> <p>C1 Training for Ministry of Human Rights on Running Media Campaigns Provided by Grantee Al-Murtaqa – Rukn Jadriya Hotel in Karrada – Day 5</p>	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Grants Stocktaking Exercise with IA2J, DPK and LBG Home Office Staff	<p>Grants Stocktaking Exercise with IA2J, DPK and LBG Home Office Staff</p> <p>Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Baghdad (NGO Directorate)</p>	<p>Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Baghdad (NGO Directorate)</p> <p>C2 Capacity Building training Strategic Planning in Suly.</p>	<p>C2 New Lawyers Training (IBA)</p> <p>C2 Capacity Building training Strategic Planning in Suly</p>	<p>C2 New Lawyers Training (IBA)</p> <p>C2 Capacity Building training Strategic Planning in Dohuk</p> <p>Targeted grants training for groups active in advocacy (Component 3 and Grants Team) Day 1 of 2</p>	<p>C2 Capacity Building training Strategic Planning in Dohuk</p> <p>Targeted grants training for groups active in advocacy (Component 3 and Grants Team) Day 2 of 2</p>	<p>C2/ERO Strategic Planning Workshop</p>

29	30	31	November 1	2	3	4
C2 New Lawyers Training (IBA) C2/ERO Strategic Planning Workshop	C2 New Lawyers Training (IBA)			C3 COMSEC meeting for streamlining procedures for the Jinsiya Issue as well as assisting Iraqis abroad in obtaining Jinsiya – 10 AM	C1 Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training - Basrah	Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Basrah					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Sulaymaniya	Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Sulaymaniya	C1/IREX - Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination	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	Psycho-social Training for selected team members	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	