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IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

WEEKLY REPORT #47

October 1, 2011 – October 7, 2011

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This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by DPK Consulting, a Division of ARD Inc.

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.

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 team completed preparations in cooperation with IREX for the first course—Communication Skills—in the series of trainings for media professionals. The training is scheduled for October 11th and will include participants from Government of Iraq (GOI) line ministries and departments including Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Women and the NGO Directorate as well as representatives of program grantees. The course is tailored to build the capacity of media and communication officials in the design and implementation of awareness raising campaigns for vulnerable groups in Iraq.

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

The component team started tracking progress of awareness raising campaigns design and implementation plans being developed by approved grantees. Subsequent to the startup meeting with Baghdad grantees, the team is meeting individually with grantees, assisting them in preparing implementation/activity plans for their awareness raising campaigns. Similar exercises will be conducted with Erbil grantees during the upcoming week.

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 Grants Unit met Mr. Basil Hasim, the Director General Assistant of the NGO Directorate. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the training plan for the NGO Directorate and the process for nominating NGOs working with vulnerable groups to attend the next RFA and capacity building training workshops. Points agreed to include:

- The NGO Directorate will coordinate with its regional provincial offices in Basrah and the Kurdistan Region to enhance cooperation between these offices and the Access to Justice Program to conduct training in these provinces.
- A representative from the Directorate will attend future Access to Justice training programs in Baghdad, Basrah, and Kurdistan Region (KR) or any other province.
- The first training is scheduled for October 23-24, 2011.

The Basrah office will finalize a draft NGO training needs assessment which will be distributed to a number of Basrah NGOs in order to prioritize their training needs. The Program will turn the prioritized training topics into courses that support development in these areas for NGOs throughout Iraq.

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 Legal Advisor and Law Faculty Coordinators met IBA Chairman Mr. Mohammed Al-Faisal on October 5th to plan a conference on curriculum development scheduled to take place in February 2012. In addition to the IBA Chairman, a number of members of the advisory council to the Dean of Baghdad Law School attended.

In coordination with Erbil Regional Office, Component 2 participated in a meeting to discuss the KR Law on Lawyers. The meeting was held in Erbil on October 5th at the offices of the WEO, one of the Access to Justice Program's grant recipient. Attendees included three professors from Salahaddin University Law School, one representative from Kurdistan Human Rights Watch, and WEO Chairwoman Mrs. Suzan Aref.

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

On Oct. 4th, Component 2 Law Faculty Coordinators met with Dr. Salah Hadi, Deputy Dean of Baghdad Law School, to discuss recommendations from the Dean's Council Meeting on curriculum reform held May 1-2, 2011 in Erbil. Baghdad Law School has already begun reforming courses, and has developed 18 elective courses, and will include practical hours of training in next years' curriculum that will aid future lawyers in acquiring the skills needed to offer quality assistance to vulnerable persons.

The Basrah Team met with Dr. Husain, professor of law and appointed legal clinic project manager, of Basrah Law School to review and discuss some of the items in the Law School's legal clinic proposal application. The meeting covered the following: the process of applying for Program grants to fund projects and activities related to vulnerable and disadvantaged populations, the importance of the Basrah Law School's role in the legal clinic project, and the necessary steps for success of the legal clinic.

The Basrah Team bridged communications between the Basrah Law School and lawyers of the Iraqi Bar Association by hosting a meeting to discuss the role of the IBA in the Basrah Law School legal clinic. Several lawyers expressed their interest in supporting vulnerable populations in the Basrah community by providing a list of the most experienced lawyers in different legal fields and encouraging experienced lawyers to volunteer their time at the legal clinic. The IBA in Basrah expressed interest in playing an active role in this project and initial arrangements were made to synergize the efforts of the IBA, Basrah Law School, and active civil society institutions to ensure the success of the legal clinic.

COMPONENT 3 - IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

RESULT 3.1: SUPPORT PARTNERS IN REVIEWING PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES FOR REFORM OF POLICIES, REGULATIONS AND LEGISLATION AS THEY RELATE TO VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

In coordination with Erbil Regional Office, Component 3 participated in a meeting to discuss the Kurdistan Region Law on Lawyers. The meeting was held in Erbil on October 5th at the offices of the WEO, one of the Access to Justice Program's grant recipient. Attendees included three professors from Salahaddin University Law School, one representative from Kurdistan Human Rights Watch, and WEO Chairwoman Mrs. Suzan Aref. The agenda included the following discussion:

- the current law requires mandatory *pro bono* services for the vulnerable, but does not explicitly list a minimum number of cases annually.
- full agreement that each newly graduated lawyer handle a minimum of 3 *pro bono* cases per year.
- agreement that the provision in the draft law that newly graduated lawyers must attend the Judicial Institute for 2 years before they are allowed to practice law should be removed because the Institute is not functioning at present time; however, this issue must be raised with the KBA since they were the proposers of the provision.
- agreement that law university professors handle *pro bono* cases for vulnerable populations because they are experienced in the law and would set a good example for student lawyers.

The KBA's absence from this meeting resulted in residual questions requiring their attention, such as the minimum *pro bono* casework for new lawyers and the requirement to attend the judicial institute. The groups in attendance agreed to hold a series of round table discussions after this meeting expressing the need for the KBA to be present at all future meetings.

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

Component 3 met with the Citizens' Affairs Directorate of the Cabinet Secretariat (COMSEC) to align relevant Access to Justice Program activities with parallel initiatives in the COMSEC. Initial plans were made to develop a joint initiative in the area of undocumented children arising from unregistered marriages, the next step of which is to organize a meeting with a working group comprised of Access to Justice Program NGO partners and legal experts from the Citizens' Affairs Directorate. This is a significant development as the Citizens' Affairs Directorate had not been previously inclined to include NGOs in their research and discussions on this issue.

Component 3 developed draft agenda materials for inter-Ministerial meetings on Jinsiya to address the recommendations from the Jinsiya roundtables that have been adopted by COMSEC for further pursuit hosted by the Citizens' Affairs Directorate that are scheduled in October and November.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

- All Grants Team members participated in the Inspector General's Workshop for Fraud Awareness that was held at the Mansour Compound on October 3, 2011.
- The Grant Team Capacity Building Specialist met with Mr. Basil the Deputy of the NGO Directorate Office and agreed to hold any RFA workshops scheduled for Baghdad at the office of the NGO Directorate. NGO Directorate will invite NGOs from their lists of registered organizations. The first such training is scheduled for October 23-24, 2011.

- On October 5-6, 2011, the Grants Team Capacity Building Specialist completed a two-day Workshop on the Access to Justice Grants Application Process, and Proposal Writing for representatives of 3 NGOs from Kirkuk and 7 NGOs from Erbil at the Erbil Regional Office.



PROGRAM SUPPORT UNIT

MEDIA SPECIALIST

- Met with web developer for revision and final touches of the English templates of Program website and to initiate stage two works, including development of Arabic templates.
- Translated all template links to Arabic for the pages.
- Finalized draft versions of new program office signage and posters, working with 4points designers – showed designs to COP and received feedback to finalize designs for printing
- Facilitated meeting for COTR and COP with MOLSA Deputy Minister Dara Rasheed to discuss ways of cooperation.
- Finalized snapshot for the IBA Sept. 29th conference.
- Met with IREX, and Component 1 on training preparation for media departments
- Addressed inaccessibility problems of the program website.

M&E SPECIALIST

- Completed data entry of the first year data for use in 4th quarter and annual reports. Currently checking the final data set with the Gender Specialist to address project gender related issues for the 4th quarter/annual report.

GENDER SPECIALIST

Result 5.2: Strengthened capacity of project staff to integrate gender in to all project components

Prepared for basic gender training for Access to Justice Program staff by interviewing the staff members to ascertain what “gender” means to them.

Result 5.2.1: Pilot Value Network Methodology and approach with three (3) vulnerable populations and three (3) legal rights/issues

Met with the COP and in the hopes of strengthening the work of entire Project, and because the Iraqi Bar Association is scheduled to conduct a Gap Analysis of all vulnerable populations under its rapid grant, agreed that the targeted groups for the Value Chain Analysis will be Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees, and People with Disabilities.

Result 5.3: Engagement with international community and appropriate Ministries to address Gender Based Violence

5.3.1: Engagement with international community and appropriate ministries to reform legislation in opposition of Gender Based Violence in partnership with Iraqi NGOs working in this field

Conducted assessment of International Stakeholder involvement in efforts to reduce gender based violence:

- Gender Specialist met with Kristine Peduto of UNICEF. During the conversation the topic of GBV was raised. Ms. Peduto offered to send the current GBV draft legislation that is currently pending with the Iraqi Parliament.
- Gender Specialist met with Richard Slack, Human Rights Officer of the British Embassy, and Garrett O'Brien, Human Rights Officer for the EU. This is the first time in Iraq that the EU has a dedicated person addressing human rights issues. Previously, this task fell to one individual with a varied portfolio. The EU is excited to now have a full time person.
 - The British Embassy is currently assessing what types of programs it would like to develop. They are considering, for example, possible human rights training for lawyers and working with civil society. With civil society, a unique approach is being considered in that they are looking at how a partnership may be developed between local and international NGOs. The international NGOs that may be approached, if this avenue is pursued, include Save the Children UK, Amnesty International, and other NGOs from the UK and the European Union. The British Embassy does have a separate fund for gender issues.
 - Because Mr. O'Brien of the EU has only been in country for a few days he is still familiarizing himself with his portfolio and therefore, was not able to fully discuss the plans and objectives of the EU with regards to human rights, and women in particular. It is important to note that the 7 million euros that was originally earmarked for IHEC can now be used for other program activities.
- Have scheduled meeting next week with IOM and UNDP to discuss their work with women and other related issues.

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

ADMINISTRATION/HR/IT

- A follow-up meeting was held with TRC concerning ARD company registration with the GOI. A revised draft support letter was shown to the MOT Companies' Registrar. The MOT Companies Registrar contends that the expiration date of the agreement between the Ministry

of Human Rights and USAID must be included. This issue is set to be finalized in the coming week.

- The Access to Justice Program identified a candidate to fill the vacant position of Erbil Regional Director, and the candidate has been put forward to 4 points. Reference checks are currently being performed with the expectation that the person will start in two-week's time.

PROCUREMENT

- Annual inventory report of non-expendable property items has been compiled and currently being finalized.

BASRAH REGIONAL OFFICE

- Follow up coordination with Baghdad office Procurement Officer regarding the Grants Proposal workshop scheduled in Basrah on 15 and 16 October. Contacted the Basrah International Hotel and received their offer.

ERBIL REGIONAL OFFICE

- Coordinated with the American Consulate regarding the meetings with Walter Doetsch and Bob Davidson (USAID) on the 10th, 11th, and 12th of October in Erbil and Sulaymaniya and informed our staff about the dates and times.
- Completed translation of materials for the legal advisor meeting with the Kurdistan Bar Association held on October 5th.
- Made all necessary arrangements (NGO lists, invitation letters, confirmation calls) for the RFA training workshops in Erbil (5-6 Oct), Sulaymaniya (8-9 Oct) and Dohuk (11-12 Oct); 25 NGOs are expected to participate in the events in each province.

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday October 1	Sunday 2	Monday 3	Tuesday 4	Wednesday 5	Thursday 6	Friday 7
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USAID Fraud awareness training on Mansour Compound – attended by all components, Grants and Finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CI Awareness Raising Campaigns by Grantees: Start up meeting in Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training –Erbil 	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Sulaymaniya C2 New lawyer Training in IBA ICSSI Conference – Erbil the Access to Justice Program Regional Director & NGO Advisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Sulaymaniya C2 New lawyer Training in IBA ICSSI Conference – Erbil the Access to Justice Program Regional Director & NGO Advisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination (CI) Erbil Access to Justice Program team/USAID Baghdad-Erbil team – meeting in Sulaymaniya with 3 NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C3 COMSEC meeting for connecting the MOH Birth and Death certificates to the MOI for the Jinsiya Issue – 10 AM 	

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training - Basrah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CI Series of Trainings on Advanced Communication Skills for Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Grantees Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Basrah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CI Series of Trainings on Advanced Communication Skills for Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Grantees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CI Series of Trainings on Advanced Communication Skills for Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Grantees 			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Baghdad (NGO Directorate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Baghdad (NGO Directorate) 				
29	30	31	November 1	2	3	4
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C3 COMSEC meeting for streamlining procedures for the Jinsiya Issue as well as assisting Iraqis abroad in obtaining Jinsiya – 10 AM 		

Events circled in red are recommended for USAID attendance.