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IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

WEEKLY REPORT #46

September 24, 2011 – September 30, 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**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**

The component team completed an Awareness Raising Campaign start-up session on September 28th, for all Baghdad-based grantees. The team explained the significance of awareness-raising campaigns to the participants and introduced them to USAID's basic branding and marking requirements for grantees. The training included a discussion of situations warranting exceptions to the branding requirements and the process for securing waivers from USAID. The grantees were assured that the component team will always be accessible to them for technical assistance and guidance. Grantees were informed that the maximum turnaround time for approval of products will be one week. Similar meetings are planned for grantees in the Kurdistan Region (KR) during the first week of October 2011.

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

The component participated in the 3-day grantee training on Financial Management, Human Resource Management, and Procurement organized by the Grants team in Erbil for all the approved grantees of the program. The training provided an excellent platform for the program team to establish direct communication with grantees that will prove to be a useful tool for future coordination. The component team utilized the opportunity to establish contact with grantees who have received their first disbursement of funds in order to reiterate that all communication materials to be used for awareness-raising and advertising are to be reviewed and approved by the program.

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 conducted a capacity building workshop for 16 NGOs from Dohuk and Ninawa provinces in Dohuk- KRG on Sep. 26th - 27th, 2011 on the topic of General Management. The workshop was held in the Dilshad Hotel and 16 representatives from 16 NGOs attended out of which 6 were females.



The Erbil NGO Advisor organized meetings with Kurdistan Human Rights Watch (KHRW) and Women’s Empowerment Organization (WEO) for the COP. At the meetings, the COP discussed with the organizations the projects that the organizations were planning as well as additional ideas to keep the various partners that were supported by the program connected with each other and organized into working groups to address issues in the community and continue to support one another.

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 Two completed two days of training on September 24-25 at the Iraqi Bar Association (IBA) for 25 young lawyers (6 females and 19 males). The first day of training was dealing with the international Convention on the Rights of Children, and the relevance of its articles to Iraqi law and reality. The second day was dealing with the wife's rights in Iraqi personal status law, during the marriage and after divorce. The training was well received by the participants. Trainees commented that they hoped to keep the courses running for a long time to bridge the distances between Iraq and the other nations because of the lack of concern for these issues in the old regime’s policy. Trainees also found the training practical and applicable to their daily work.

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

- On September 29th, the Component completed a conference on the draft Law on Lawyers (replacing law No. 173 from 1965). In preparation for the conference, Program technical experts reviewed the draft Law and worked with the IBA in amending the articles to include a requirement that lawyers perform pro bono work for the benefit of vulnerable groups on an annual basis.

The event, held at the IBA, was the largest gathering the Program has organized to date, bringing together more than 350 participants that included representatives of the IBA and lawyers from all provinces of Iraq. Attendees discussed and made recommendations to the draft law that had been prepared by the IBA Legal Committee.



The IBA accepted the recommendation that the draft include a *pro bono* requirement for all lawyers to provide free legal services on an annual basis to two Iraqi individuals belonging to vulnerable groups. The recommendation that lawyers be required to take a minimum of two courses in human rights on a yearly basis was also accepted. The IBA publically stated that their organization will support the cost of these courses.



- The Chief of Party, the Erbil Legal Advisor, and a representative of the Women Empowerment Organization (WEO), a partner grantee of the Program, met with the Kurdistan Bar Association (KBA) to discuss similar efforts to introduce pro bono work requirements to the Kurdistan Law of Lawyers. The KBA was receptive to and expressed interest in receiving recommendations from the civil society community and asked the Program and its partners provide recommendations for any changes or adjustments to the draft Law of Lawyers for Kurdistan within two weeks.

The Program agreed to meet with the WEO, the Kurdistan Human Rights Watch, the Salahaddin (Erbil) Law School, and the Access to Justice Program at the WEO offices next week and review the draft law and develop suggested additions to include *pro bono* requirements to assist the vulnerable populations of Kurdistan.

- Component 3 continued working with COMSEC (the secretariat of the Cabinet) and the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) on the implementation of Jinsiya reforms. The Program is heartened to report that COMSEC and the MOI are increasingly taking ownership of this effort. The team initiated the planning for upcoming high-level meetings that resulted from the Roundtables held in May and July of this year. Three separate conferences will be organized by COMSEC for the months of October and November, which are a direct result of COMSEC's adoption of five of the recommendations from the roundtables.

In addition, Component 3 reached out to COMSEC requesting a meeting to discuss common interests in general civil affairs issues, and in particular, the challenges facing imprisoned children lacking Jinsiya.

- On behalf of Component 3, the Gender Specialist facilitated Program engagement with Younadem Kanna, the Chairman of the Labor and Social Affairs Committee at Parliament, to discuss pending legislation. The Access to Justice Program will seek further meetings with Mr. Kanna in order to explore how the Program might support reform efforts to the Social Affairs law to ensure that the rights of vulnerable groups are upheld to the greatest and best extent possible.

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

The Iraq Access to Justice Program will provide the IBA with technical support for the implementation of the pro bono legal services requirement once the Law of Lawyers is enacted. Specifically, Component 3 will work with the IBA in developing an initiative to educate the legal community and the public about the new requirement, designing necessary compliance and monitoring tools, and in developing a framework for distribution of cases and recognition for outstanding pro bono work. Note: these assurances were given to the IBA prior to the conference, which allowed the IBA to address implementation questions that arose during the conference.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

- Completed the Grant Management Training for Partners in Erbil on September 24 at the Erbil International Hotel (Sheraton). The event was attended by 46 participants representing 8 NGOs from the Kurdistan region and 9 NGOs from the central region. The regional offices participated in the training as well.
- On September 27-28, the Grants team completed an RFA and Proposal Writing Workshop for Iraqi Law School Deans in Baghdad from more than 12 law schools from around the country. Workshop trainings focused on the process of applying for competitive grants to facilitate the establishment of legal clinics or support moot court activities. The deans were informed and received with optimism the pronouncement from the Higher Education Ministry regarding adoption of legal clinics as an official part



of the law school curriculum.



- Met with the Grant Evaluation Committee to review the Grant Summary Forms submitted in response to the competitive grants process RFA, and to select successful applicants. A total of 17 were submitted; 9 were selected to proceed to the second stage of the process-- submission of a full grant application. The Grants team is now in the process of notifying successful applicants.
- The application for a Legal Clinic Grant was submitted by Basrah Law School, and has been reviewed by grants team. Comments from the review were sent to Basra Regional Office (BRO). BRO is working together with the Dean of the Law School, Dr. Aqeel, as well as Dr. Husain, the Project Manager, to consider the comments and to finalize the risk assessment. The establishment of a legal clinic is important to the overall strategy of the Program to establish law school legal clinics in three pilot universities of which Basrah Law School is the third out of the three which include Baghdad Law School and Salahaddin Law School in Erbil.
- Coordinated with PRT Kirkuk in order to invite Kirkuk NGOs to upcoming RFA trainings in Erbil in October. There are many Kirkuk NGOs that are requesting the training but have not been in contact with the Erbil office.

PROGRAM SUPPORT UNIT

MEDIA SPECIALIST

- Received USAID approval of Iraq Access to Justice Program website template. Proceeding with revisions in response to COTR comments and meeting with web developer to initiate stage two of development, including Arabic templates.
- Met with IREX technical advisor to prepare for the upcoming meeting with the NGO Directorate where the parties will discuss joint support and assistance for the development of a new Directorate website with integrated database functions and online NGO registration application submission capabilities. Prepared draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Access to Justice Program and IREX that will govern this joint effort. Visited the NGO directorate with COP and the Component 1 leader to discuss the timeline for this work.

- Prepared conference banners and other promotional materials, and assisted in the logistics of the conference hall set-up for the September 29 IBA Conference.

GENDER SPECIALIST

RESULT 5.2: STRENGTHENED CAPACITY OF PROJECT STAFF TO INTEGRATE GENDER IN TO ALL PROJECT COMPONENTS.

- With the support of the DTS home office, initiated the pilot Value Network/Chain Methodology approach discussing the usage of three vulnerable populations and three legal rights issues.
- Met with Sheikh Naeem Al-Suheil, advisor to the Prime Minister, to begin detailed mapping of the government officials and institutions involved in the legislative and/or procedural reform process as it affects vulnerable groups' rights. Sheikh Naeem will be a valuable resource in understanding the official legislative process and the unofficial mechanisms used by members of Parliament, Ministries and other stakeholders to resolve issues and make legislative changes.

RESULT 5.3: ENGAGEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES TO ADDRESS GENDER BASED VIOLENCE.

- On 28 September 2011 attended a meeting with Joe Ascuncion and Michael Pannek of ICITAP. ICITAP refers to International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program as an arm of the Department of Justice.

Background: In Iraq, one of the ICITAP projects has been working in the field of corrections. Following the assessment conducted in 2003, ICITAP helped reestablish the Iraq Corrections Service (ICS) under the Coalition Provisional Authority. ICITAP then worked with Iraqi leaders to develop a national prison system that seven years later operated 22 prisons; housed approximately 24,000 inmates; and employed, trained, and equipped more than 19,000 staff. ICITAP deployed a team of 80 corrections training officers to provide on-site training and mentoring to Iraqi staff at prison facilities throughout the country and to assist the Iraq Ministry of Justice in strengthening the overall management of the corrections service. The ICITAP program helps ensure that the ICS functions as a safe and secure correctional system that follows internationally recognized standards for the treatment of prisoners.

As part of this program, ICITAP personnel working at Rusafa Women's Prison have assisted women who are about to be released and who are facing a great likelihood of being the victim of an honor killing. For example, ICITAP has been successful in having some women released directly to local NGOs who specialize in women's issues.

Because ICITAP will no longer be working in the field of corrections later this year, Access to Justice is investigating the possibility of offering assistance to these vulnerable women through its partners. The Gender Specialist has been invited to meet the warden of Rusafa prison and is currently negotiating a mutually convenient date and time. The meeting will take place at FOB Shield. This meeting will help assist in making a decision as to whether or not it is appropriate for A2J to become involved.

- On 29 September 2011 the Gender Integration and Communication Specialist attended the TIP (Trafficking In Persons) Working Group meeting at UNAMI. The Working Group was led by Ms. Pam Woodard of the Rule of Law Component at the US Embassy. The Group also connects with people in Jordan and Erbil. The Working Group has representatives of IOM, the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, the Human Rights Committee of Parliament, EUJUST-LEX, British Embassy and US Embassy.

The Iraqi Parliament is set to approve the new legislation on Trafficking in Persons. It is believed that the legislation will officially be placed on the CoR Agenda prior to the recess in mid-October.

Pam Woodard mentioned that the US Government would like to start planning a media campaign regarding the new legislation. The British Embassy has approved funding for the media campaign. Access to Justice was asked by the working group to investigate ways in which it could support not only the media campaign, but also working with all interested stakeholders on the new legislation. This may include connecting international organizations, such as IOM, with local NGOs providing pro bono legal support to women. The Component One Lead, Ms. Hayya Ahmed, has been apprised of a possible meeting at the British Embassy so that she can assess whether or not the Program can be of assistance in the media campaign.

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

Begin understanding legislative process building on existing resources from USAID Legislative Support Program. Meet with partner NGOs and Iraqi officials close to the Program to identify the key individuals who are influential in each step of the legislative process.

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

Administration/HR/IT

- Coordinated logistics for travel to Iraq of new Component 2 lead Tanyel Taysi who arrived in Baghdad on September 29, 2011.
- Finalized employment documents for HR Officer, Najlaa Shanan Mousa, who will begin working on October 1, 2011.
- Interviews for the new Regional Director position were conducted at the Erbil Regional Office.

Procurement

- Started the procurement of simultaneous translation equipment to facilitate Access to Justice sponsored trainings and conferences.
- RFQ for Baghdad Hotels in progress

- PO signed for the upgrade of the temporary Regional Office at the Mnawi Basha Hotel in Basra

BASRAH REGIONAL OFFICE

- Signed a Purchase Order with the Mnawi Basha Hotel for the temporary Basrah Regional Office space for an additional two months, September 22-November 20, 2011. Moved the Regional Office into the larger office that provides more space for employees.

ERBIL REGIONAL OFFICE

- Contacted 20 NGOs in Dohuk to confirm their participation in the General Management training on Sep 26-27
- Scheduled site visits for COP, Eric Nigh, with KBA, WEO and KHRW on Sep 25
- Prepared NGOs list for all three provinces in KRG for the RFA training in Oct 2011
- Coordinated with two NGOs in Kirkuk regarding their willingness to participate in RFA training in Erbil in October
- Coordinated and organized 54 rooms for the staff and the participants of the Financial Management training in the Erbil International Hotel and provided logistical support for the staff

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
September 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training - Basrah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training –Basrah C3 & Gender Specialist Attended widows conference in Parliament 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBA New Lawyers Trainings C2 NGO Training – General Management – Sulymaniya C2 Coordination meeting – IBA, Baghdad Law School, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBA New Lawyers Trainings C2 NGO Training Sulymaniya C3 Meeting with Citizens' Affairs Directorate at COMSEC C3 Meeting with Deputy Prime Minister's Chief of Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend the Conference for the Ministry of Human Rights in Mansour C3 Meeting with General Yaseen and the Jinsiya Directorate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner Training in Financial Management – Erbil Meeting of Gender Specialist with Head of Parliamentary Committee on Social Affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner Training in Procurement Management - Erbil
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner Training in Personnel Management – Erbil IBA New Lawyers Trainings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBA New Lawyers Trainings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C2 NGO Training – General Management – Dahouk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C2 NGO Training – General Management – Dahouk Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training for Law School Deans - Baghdad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training for Law School Deans – Basrah CI Meeting with Grantees in Baghdad to Discuss Branding and Marking requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation Conference for Law of Lawyers Reform – IBA – Baghdad 	
October 1	2	3	4	5	6	7

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<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 - Sulymaniya 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Sulymaniya 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination (CI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Dahouk Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination (CI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training –Dahouk Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination (CI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> Series of Trainings on Advanced Communication Skills for Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Grantees (CI) Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training - Basrah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Series of Trainings on Advanced Communication Skills for Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Grantees (CI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Series of Trainings on Advanced Communication Skills for Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Grantees (CI) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COMSEC Conference on the Unified Identification for the Jinsiya Issue 10 AM 	