



USAID | **IRAQ**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #41

AUGUST 14 – AUGUST 26, 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.

COMPONENT I

IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE OF LEGAL REMEDIES

The Iraq Access to Justice Program is United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Iraq's three-year program designed to improve access to justice for vulnerable and disadvantaged peoples in Iraq. Included in this group are women, widows, orphans, detainees and the incarcerated, minorities (both ethnic and religious), the impoverished, and internally displaced persons and returnees.

RESULT I.1: NUMBER AND TYPE OF TARGETED OUTREACH (AWARENESS AND INFORMATION) CAMPAIGNS CONDUCTED WITH PARTNERS

Coordination with IREX:

Training of NGOs, CSOs and Government on effective tools for information dissemination, use of traditional and new media and media: On Aug. 23 Iraq Access to Justice/ Component I staff had a meeting with the IREX Coordinator to discuss the schedule of Media Trainings to be delivered to the Ministries of (Women, Human Rights, MOLSA and Civil Society) in addition to the list of NGOs that granted by Iraq Access to Justice Program . The discussion included the no. of participants, no. of workshops, appropriate period for each workshop and the date of starting the connection with the ministries and NGOs to provide list of participants.

IA2J Trainings in Baghdad ,KRG, Basra and Najaf for approved grantees on designing, planning and implementation of Awareness Raising Campaigns for vulnerable groups: Component I staff is working now on the preparation of conducting these trainings to be delivered to the NGOs that granted by Iraq Access to Justice Program at the beginning of October. The preparations include: finalizing the Training Package of Strategic Communication Planning, the schedule of trainings, list of participants, completing the financial issues of these trainings.

Annual Work Plan (Year Two):

The component teams in Baghdad, Basra and Erbil worked together to develop the annual plan of activities for the second fiscal year of the program starting from October 1, 2011. To facilitate the drafting of a more thorough and inclusive Work Plan, the Regional Directors from Erbil and Basra traveled to Baghdad for several days. For fiscal year two the program will move forward from the planning phases to the disbursement of grants, with the focus of activities to be on capacity building and mentoring of the approved grantees to ensure that they achieve the desired impact from their projects. The team is also preparing for active monitoring of public awareness and outreach activities of the grantees.

COMPONENT 2

IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

RESULT 2.1: CAPACITY OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERS TO ASSIST VULNERABLE AND DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE STRENGTHENED.

All offices participated in the multi-day meeting in Baghdad to discuss Year 2 Work Plan goals.

The Basra Office finalized the list of NGOs who will be invited to attend the capacity building training workshop that will be held September 11 – 12, 2011. The list includes approximately 20 representatives from the NGOs.

The Senior Program Assistant met the Assistant of the Director General of the NGO Directorate, Mr. Basil Hashim Fakhir on August 22, 2011. The following points were discussed: how to motivate NGOs to work as networks instead of as rivals; how to strengthen the linkages between the Directorate and NGOs; how to change the perception that the Directorate's sole function is to register an NGO; and how to connect the Directorate with donors who can assist the NGOs. Additional points discussed were: capacity-building of NGOs who have goals that are in alignment with the aims of the Access to Justice Project and how to up-date the NGO Directorate's website.

Mr. Basil Hashim Fakhir explained that the NGO Directorate appointed employees from the Directorate to follow up NGO activities in various Ministries.

Mr. Basil Hasim Fakhir admitted that the NGO Directorate had failed to launch an appropriate media campaign for the registration of new NGOs.

The Senior Program Assistant met with Ms. Parwin Mohammed as a follow-up to their meeting on 10 August 2011. Parwin stated that four NGOs were contacted by the NGO Directorate to complete their registration.

RESULT 2.2: SUPPLY AND ABILITY OF LAWYERS TO ASSIST IRAQ'S VULNERABLE AND DISADVANTAGED POPULATIONS INCREASED.

Legal Education Advisor and Senior Program Assistant organized the third New Lawyers' Training in partnership with the National Institute for Human Rights and the Iraqi Bar Association. The training was conducted in Baghdad at the Iraqi Bar Association conference hall from August 20 – 21st. Twenty-one lawyers attended the training; 14 men and 7 women. Razaq Hamed (IBA trainer) gave the first day of training. His topic was "The Mechanisms or Procedures of Litigation before the International Criminal Court."

The second day of training was presented by Mr. Khalil Ibrahim (National Institute of Human Rights trainer). The topic was "The International Context for the Concept of Internally Displaced and Forcibly Displaced People and their Rights under Iraqi law." On this day Mr. Ibrahim presented a detailed explanation about the UN guidelines on the UN Convention on Internally Displaced Persons. He explained most of the principles under the guidelines (30 principles) and reviewed several models of forced displacement to other countries and by

examples of internal displacement. The examples included photographs and official statistics of the United Nations and other international bodies.

On August 24th 2011 Iraqi Bar Association Chairman Mr. Mohammed Al-Faisal and 4 members of IBA visited A2J Office and met with A2J Component 2 team. The purpose of visit was to thank A2J for all support to IBA and appreciated Access to Justice Program efforts in serving the vulnerable populations and Iraqi lawyers.



This visit was significant in that it was the first visit of high ranking IBA members to the project headquarters. Moreover, the Chairman has been very pleased with the work of the Access to Justice Program and its approach and this has resulted in very fair cooperation and strong support from his side.

Mr. Mohammed represented that the IBA is ready to work with A2J at all levels in Iraqi provinces to serve vulnerable populations and educate Iraqi lawyers. He promised to repeat the visit in the near future and he expressed his happiness and gratitude for the support of the Program.



Both Mr. Hamed and Mr. Ibrahim focused on the need of vulnerable groups. The IBA Chairman, Mr. Muhammed Waheed, attended both days of training and expressed his appreciation of the Access to Justice Project goal of serving vulnerable groups.

RESULT 2.3: ASSIST ORGANIZATIONAL (REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE) CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE IBA AND OTHER LEGAL ASSOCIATIONS TO “INCREASE THE SUPPLY” OF LAWYERS ASSISTING VULNERABLE OR DISADVANTAGED POPULATIONS.

Basrah Legal Clinic: Basra staff are reviewing the Grant Application Forms and ensuring that the data provided is accurate and completed for grant purposes. The staff is currently focusing on such problems as: problem analysis, identifying beneficiaries, third party resources, etc. and that these issues to be identified on the form so that funding for a Moot Court program can be funded. The first draft has been received at the Basra office and is currently under review.

COMPONENT 3

ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

RESULT 3.1: ASSIST CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERS, LAW ASSOCIATIONS AND LAW SCHOOLS TO CONVERT LESSONS LEARNED FROM IMPLEMENTING COMPONENTS 1 AND 2 INTO SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LAW-RELATED REFORMS.

IA2J has been asked by the IBA to support a conference to announce the draft Law on Lawyers, in cooperation with the Iraqi Bar Association. The conference will be held on 29 September 2011. The IBA prepared the final draft based upon the recommendations of the IA2J project and specifically, the Component 3 team. It is anticipated that the conference will be attended by IBA representatives from all provinces and the Deans of law faculties of Iraqi Universities.

RESULT 3.2: MECHANISMS CREATED FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND NGOS/CSOS ON IMPROVING POLICIES, LAWS, AND REGULATIONS FOR FACILITATING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.

Support in drafting Law on Lawyers: The program team met continued to work with the IBA representatives to reach a final consensus of the language of the Law of Lawyers which has led to the scheduling of the Conference referenced previously. The team has received the translated version for the report of the meeting on the issues of Jinsyia and formal identification. The Component Lead will review and revise in the near future.

A member of the team has been monitoring the Welfare Act for Disabled and Persons with Special Needs legislation that has been prepared by the Legal Affairs Directorate General at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. The draft legislation was previously submitted to the Council of Ministries for approval. COMSEC sent the legislation back to MoLSA to revise one provision. COMSEC also recommended that MoLSA coordinate this review and revision with the Ministry of Human Rights. On 28 August 2011 a team member will be meeting with Falah Hasan Al-Yasyin, the Director General of the Legal Affairs Directorate of MoLSA to assess the status of the legislation.

GRANTS

RESULT 1.1: INCREASE THE COMPETENCE OF GRANTS STAFF AND IA2J STAFF

RESULT 1.2: INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF NGO/CSOS, LAW SCHOOL, IBA AND IJU TO EFFECTIVELY APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE FROM ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM GRANT ACTIVITIES.

- Grant Application and Proposal Writing Workshops: As the Request for Application has been formally circulated for inviting competitive grant proposals; the grants team, conducted training workshops for various NGOs in Sulymaniya, Erbil and Dohouk, in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. This week a total of 26 new NGO partners participated in the training in Dahouk. As last week, this training proved to be a useful resource for the NGOs now and in the future. The training provided a detailed explanation of the technical requirements of the grant applications. As previously reported, the next round of training/workshops will be held in Basra in September.



Grant RFA Training in Dahouk – Aug 20-21



Grant RFA Training in Erbil – Aug 17-18



Grant RFA Training in Sulymaniya – Aug 15-16

- The Grant Team worked on the setup forms for the Vendors, Certificates and Assurances for the grant applications previously approved by the COTR. The Team completed the Wire Transfer Vendor setups for 6 grantees, Certifications for 11 grantees and Proof of Address for 11 of the completed grant agreements.
- Future Trainings/Conferences:
 1. Proposal Writing and Application Process workshops: the location will be Baghdad- Sally port compound in Al-Mansour. 2 workshops will be held the dates as following: (4 – 5) September & (7 – 8) September 2011. The purpose of this workshops is to train Baghdad NGOs/CSOs/ Law Schools / IJU and BA partners in the Proposal Writing for the Grant Application Form. Assist partners in preparing proposals for the Grant Application Process.
 2. Proposal Writing and Application Process workshops: the location will be Basra. And this work shop for the same purpose of workshops in Baghdad.
 3. Kick Off Meeting: Location will be in Baghdad – Sheraton Hotel on 24 September 2011. The purpose of This Meeting is:

New Grant Award Recipients and Partners will be call together for an Orientation on IA2J and Partner expectations. Provide a venue where Grantees, partners, and funding organizations can exchange ideas, sharing of resources, and networking.

M&E

M&E dedicated most of the week for developing a comprehensive work plan for the coming year. M&E Specialist is currently updating the sub-activities database and the related archives as well as building a grants' follow up database.

Media

- IADO grant application has been revised in assistance with component one team and was submitted last week.
- For IADO assistance, IA2J and IREX have signed a collaboration MOU to take part in their capacity building and website development assistance.
- There is another media and communications capacity development program for various partners such as ministers and NGO grantees. IA2J and IREX will be collaborating on this. The training program is planned to start early October. (Media has created the link and now Component one are taking the lead to finalize agreement)
- Additionally, there may be another collaboration with IREX on website development and technical training for the NGO Directorate and possibly with the IBA.
- IA2J was visited by the president and board members of the IBA . Those present at the meeting were:
 - Mr. Mohammed Al-Faisal /IBA Chairman
 - Mr. Hassan Hameed Al-Zahiri/ Deputy of Chairman.
 - Ms. Ahlam Rasheed Al-Lami/ Human Rights committee- Board member.
 - Mr. Razaq Hamed- IBA legal committee.
 - Mr. Jamal Nadhum- IBA legal committee
 - IA2J Team Eric Nigh, GERALYN BUSNARDO, ALI RAHEEM AND HASAN JABBAR.

Gender

During this week the Gender Specialist attended the two-day work plan meeting and training on procurement held in the Baghdad office. The procurement training was conducted by Ms. GERALYN BUSNARDO of DPK home office.

On 25 August 2011 the Gender Specialist, accompanied by the Director of Operations met with Her Excellency Dr. Ibtehal G. Al-Zaidy, the Minister of the State Ministry for Women's Affairs. The Minister was late for the meeting which caused the meeting to be shorter than anticipated. A brief overview of the A2J project was provided.

H.E. Dr. Al-Zaidy was very interested in the work that IA2J anticipated doing with the Women's Committee at the Iraqi Bar Association. She stated that she would like to support female lawyers. After being advised that IA2J would host a conference for female lawyers throughout Iraq, H.E. Dr. Al-Zaidy asked to be involved.

Gender-based violence legislation has been drafted according to H.E. Dr. Al-Zaidy. MoLSA, Mol, MoHE, UNDP, UNFPA and some NGOs are involved. After asking for a copy of the draft legislation, H.E. Dr. Al-Zaidy agreed to share the legislation

On 25 August 2011 the Gender Specialist along with the acting Chief of Party, Ms. Geralyn Busnardo, the Grants Manager and the Media Specialist went to the office of the Iraqi Al-Amal Organization. Iraqi Al-Amal is the recipient of the first grant awarded by IA2J and approved by USAID. From the Al-Amal Organization the following people were present: Mr. Jamal Al-Jawahiri, Hanaa Edwar, additional Baghdad staff as well as representatives from their offices in Najaf, Kerbala and Kirkuk.

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

Registration – The application for registration suffered a setback due to additional requirements being imposed by the Company of Register, as communicated by TRC, the legal firm engaged to register the program. To assist with the registration of DPK, the Director of Operations has requested supporting documentation from ARD, Inc. and USAID to reflect that DPK Consulting is the same as ARD, Inc.. DPK is in dialogue with contracting in USAID to this affect and has had discussions with Richard Nelson, the RLA, as well as with Kamal Ayub on this matter.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
August 13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing • C2 – Training Session on Legal Clinics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing • C3 – Meeting with the Women Typical Organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing • 3rd Round of New Lawyers' Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing • 3rd Round of New Lawyers' Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing • C1 – Meeting with IREX 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C2 – NGO Coordination Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C2 – Meeting with IBA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
27	28	29	30	September 01	02	03
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
•	•	•	•	•	•	•