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برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #40

AUGUST 13 – AUGUST 18, 2011

AUGUST 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.

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

- Iraq Access to Justice Program has signed the first grant agreement with Iraqi Al-Amal Organization. The organization is one of the leading NGOs with offices in various governorates of the country. The major focus of their project is to provide legal assistance and awareness vulnerable groups through legal clinics.
- The third New Lawyers Training in partnership with the National Institute for Human Rights and the Iraqi Bar Association was conducted during the week.

RESULT 1.1: NUMBER AND TYPE OF TARGETED OUTREACH (AWARENESS AND INFORMATION) CAMPAIGNS CONDUCTED WITH PARTNERS

- **Coordination with IREX:** The program has finalized the details for a series of trainings on traditional and new media and communication techniques for media staff of concerned ministries (Human Rights, Labor and Social Affairs and ministry of Displacement and Migration), the NGO Directorate, as well the relevant staff of approved grantees. The trainings have been planned in response to various requests received by the ministries for providing technical assistance to build the capacities of their staff in implementing communication and awareness campaigns. Component team and IREX are conducting training needs assessments in the above mentioned ministries and NGO Directorate in order to develop customized training packages. The trainings are expected to commence from the third week of September, 2011.
- **Annual Work Plan (Year Two):** The component team worked together to develop the annual plan of activities for the second fiscal year of the program starting from October 1, 2011. As the program moves forward from the planning phase to disbursement of grants, the focus of activities has now been diverted to 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.
- **Participation in Grants Workshop:** The component leader participated in the grants workshops held in Kurdistan Region to assist the grants team in explaining the technical aspects of the program and also with the purpose of getting firsthand information about the capacities of various NGOs in the area.

COMPONENT 2

IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

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.



- Component 2 Team and Professor James Pietsch organized “Training Session on Legal Clinic” on August 14. A total of 16 participants (with 11 female lawyers) attended the training from Baghdad, Erbil KRG, and Ninawa province; as well as from the Basra Law School. Professor Pietsch addressed topics like Definitions and Different Models of Legal Aid Clinics, Partnerships and Collaboration, Sustainability, Expanding Resources and Maximizing Impact from Limited Resources, Legal Aid Clinic Services and Quality Assurance, Legal Aid Clinic Program Operations and Questions and Information Sharing.
- Professional Development Advisor met the Chairman of the Iraqi Jurists Union (IJU) Mr. Ali Al-Shamary on August 16. The meeting was a follow up meeting where an agreement was made on discussed topics related to training courses for the employees of Ministry of Justice who are working in the prisons. Both sides agreed on: Conducting awareness courses for the employees who are working in prisons in Human Rights in general and other courses for the detainees and convicted rights’ conduct in prisons and detaining places; Coordinating with the High Judicial Council to work on conducting educational and developmental courses about Human Right and the international development about it; and, Work on conducting training courses for the jurists who are working in government in topics of arbitration, disputes and awareness. Two members of IJU, Mr. Ismael Al-Rubaie and Mr. Ayad Al-Hashimi, were appointed as point of contact for the Access to Justice program.

COMPONENT 3

ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

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 with President of Legal Committee and Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee of IBA with the purpose of discussing the comments provided by the team on the draft law of lawyers, during the meeting, the team agreed to assist IBA with legislative drafting elements to finalize the draft of the law. The two organizations also agreed to examine the possibility of jointly holding a high-level conference with government participation on this subject.
- Moot Courts at Basra Law School: The Basra Regional Office is currently working with the Basra Law School on their request related to establishing a moot court next year. The idea is to have two Judges (Civil and criminal) will guide the students about a complete court room procedure in the selected cases. The classes which will be held twice a week are expected to be practical and focused on real cases which will afford 12 credits to the participating students. Basra Regional Office is currently discussing with Dr. Aqeel; Dean of Basra Law School, the necessary steps required to apply for Access to Justice Program Grant to fund the moot court project.
- Annual Work Plan: The component team worked together to develop a draft work plan for the second year of the program. The draft work plan is now presented for comments and approval.

GRANTS

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.

Finalization of Grant Agreements: The Grants team with active support of the regional offices is currently in the process of finalizing agreements that have to be signed with the COTR approved grantees, in this regard wire transfer vendor setup forms, certifications and proof of address for six grantees have been completed and the rest is under process. The first grant agreement has been signed with Iraqi Al-Amal Organization.

Grant Application and Proposal Writing Workshops: As the Request for Application has been formally circulated for inviting competitive grant proposals; the grants team is now conducting training workshops for various NGOs in Iraq. The first round of these trainings began in the Kurdistan Region in which the grants team presented the concept of the program, the technical requirements from applicants while explaining every clause of the application in detail. These workshops proved to be a useful resource for the NGOs as they were able to understand the eligibility criteria and the procedures involved for applying for grants. The training in Erbil was also partly attended by Ms. Geralyn Busnardo, the Senior Technical Advisor of the project with TetraTech DPK. The next round of training/workshops will be held in Basra in September which is being organized by the Basra Regional Office.

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.
- Training: The training specialist remained engaged in preparation of the annual work plan in accordance with the training activities proposed by the other components.

Media

The media specialist and members of the grants team visited the offices of Al-Murtaqa to conduct a risk assessment in order to finalize the rapid grant application process. The website templates are ready and the test run of the website is being done. The Request for Applications forms are uploaded and are available for general public.

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.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES NEXT WEEK (August 20 to 25, 2011)

- New lawyers training in partnership with the National Institute for Human Rights and the Iraqi Bar Association on Aug 20-21, 2011.

PENDING ITEMS/ISSUES

The following items are still pending with USAID: (a) Project Implementation Plan submitted on January 16, 2011 for review and comment;

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 12 – SEPTEMBER 10, 2011

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
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04	05	06	07	08	09	10
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