



USAID | **IRAQ**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #37

JULY 23 – JULY 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.

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

The second roundtable conference on Jinsiya and Identity Law, organized by Iraq Access to Justice Program was held in Baghdad on July 25, 2011. The conference was attended by NGOs and CSOs from Babil, Baghdad, Qādisiyyah (Diwaniyah), and Karbala governorates, along with members from the Shura Council, Higher Judicial Council, Prime Minister's office, as well as donors and legal experts. General Yaseen Taher Al-Yasseri who leads the efforts on Jinsiya in the Ministry of Interior was a key guest who provided a detailed account of proposed reforms. The participants of the conference have made 16 recommendations regarding improvements and amendments in formal identification and Jinsiya laws.

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

- **Pre-Testing Workshop on Training Modules for Strategic Communication Plan (SCP):** The program has developed a SCP, which will be a guiding document for designing and implementing awareness raising campaigns. Seven training modules have been developed to support the grantees at various levels of design and implementation of awareness raising campaigns like target audience analysis, planning of communication activities, developing messages and selecting appropriate media tools etc. In order to finalize the training modules with input from the end user groups, a two days, pre-testing workshop of the training modules was conducted with a group of 15 media and communication staff of various grant applicant NGOs and some members from Ministry of Human Rights. The participants actively participated in the pre-testing sessions and provided valuable input on the various modules. The training modules are being revised
- **Meetings with NGOs in Erbil:** The team held several meetings with NGOs in Erbil and Soran regarding the technical and budgetary aspects of their proposals. The team briefed them also about the monitoring and reporting requirements with regards to the awareness raising campaigns and communication activities. The team also visited Soran to review the application submitted earlier by Soran Association for Care of the Handicapped which included radio and television awareness activities, as well as posters, brochures, and other efforts to advertise the services of the proposed legal clinic and to raise awareness in the public of the rights of people with disabilities. The team worked closely with the management of the NGO to further refine the proposal and the associated budget.
- **Grant Applications:** The team has reviewed and finalized two grant applications, submitted by Salam Al Rafidain and Al-Mortaqa. The two applications have been submitted in connection with the awareness raising campaigns and contain innovative ideas. The applications are under process with the grants team.

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

- Coordination with Iraqi Bar Association (IBA): Iraq Access to Justice Program is supporting the IBA in developing the capacities of new lawyers. In this regard the program is arranging training for new lawyers, in coordination with the National Institute of Human Rights, on July 30-31, 2011. The training will be the first of the many capacities building initiatives that the program has planned for IBA. The team also worked closely with IBA to develop and finalize the grant application submitted by the organization. The team reviewed the checklist as well as the bank account details of IBA; the application is now under process with the grants team. The IBA has also formally requested the team to support them in reconstruction of a more dynamic and user friendly website. The program has formally agreed to the request and is working together with the IBA IT team to finalize an activity plan and other formalities in this regard.
- Coordination with Baghdad Law School (BLS): BLS plans to set up a legal aid clinic with the assistance of Iraq Access to Justice Program. The component team reviewed and finalized the grant application. During the course of meetings the BLS management requested the Iraq Access to Justice Program to support them in curriculum development and improvement. The team has agreed in principle to provide assistance to the BLS in this area and processes are underway for a formal agreement.

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

- Training Courses on Internal Governance: The program team arranged two training courses during the week on the subject of Internal Governance for various potential grantees and the staff members of NGO Directorate. The training is expected to equip the participants with skills for improving internal governance mechanisms of their organizations. The participants of the training were from Baghdad and other provinces like Dyala, Salah Al-Din and Babil.
- Capacity Building of Potential Grantees: The team in cooperation with the NGO Directorate, arranged training courses for some 20 participants, belonging to potential grantees and from Baghdad, Diyala, Salah Al-Din and Babil attended the training with three staff from NGO Directorate. The objective of the training is to develop and improve the substantive capacities to support vulnerable populations. The training was conducted by eminent NGO Trainer Dr. Ali Al-Soufi.
- NGO Engagements: The team worked closely with potential grantees Iraqi Alliance for the Disabled (IADO) to complete missing information in their grants application like the Rapid Grants Checklist, detailed budget notes and the organization's activity profile. The team also reviewed application submitted by an NGO in Al-Anbar.

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.

Roundtable Conference on Jinsiya: The program hosted the second roundtable conference on simplifying the procedures involved in acquiring Jinsiya the formal state identification documents for the citizens. These documents are essential for Iraqi citizens to become eligible for any state services like access to health and education but the procedures defined for acquiring these documents are exceedingly complicated and make it difficult for the citizens to obtain a formal identification document. The program has been focusing on advocating this issue with the Iraqi authorities to work with them on simplifying the procedures and promote the idea of a unified identity without details of tribal and religious affiliations to enable the common Iraqis to access state services and avoid discrimination on basis of race or religion. The team is now preparing a detailed report of the roundtable while compiling the recommendations made by the participants for follow up.

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.

- Training on Proposal Writing: The grants arranged for training in grant application proposal writing for 20 NGO/CSO partners each in the Basara, and Erbil Regions. A total of 40 NGO/CSO partners received training. The training covered all aspects of writing a simple and effective proposal for grants. This training is expected to strengthen the capacity of participating NGOs and CSOs in writing proposals for funds and grants.
- Risk Assessment of Approved Grantees: The grants team completed Risk Assessments on site for approved grantees,: Fatema House, Al Rhama, Women's Empowerment Organization, Kurdistan Human Rights Organization, Al-Shabak Women Society, and Salahaddine Law School.
- Draft Agreements: The team developed draft grant agreements for Iraqi Al-Amal, Womens Empowerment Organization, and Fatema House Charity Association.
- Grant Applications: The team is in the process of reviewing and finalizing the grant applications received from NGOs/Institutions aspiring to work with the Iraq Access to Justice Program. As of the reporting period the team has submitted five grant applications (Al Malak Human Society, Kurdistan Bar Association, Baghdad Law School, Soran Association for the Care of the Handicap, and Women for Justice) to USAID COTR for approval.

MEDIA

Program website is now on the final stages of development as the content is being edited, revised and finalized. The website would be submitted to USAID for approval by the end of next week. Media Specialist is working in coordination with USAID DOCs office to ensure compliance with USAID branding and marking guidelines.

M&E

Continued the lead and discussion with all the component leaders and USAID for updating program indicators and submitting a revised PMP document for approval to the USAID.

TRAINING

Developing training agenda, toolkit and the training strategic plan for the IBA that will be a guide for both the trainer and the trainee. It is also expected to simplify the training process and arranging activities in systematic method.

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

- Basra Regional Office: The Iraq Access to Justice Program, Basra regional opened its office at the Manawi Basha Hotel on July 24 2011. In addition, the NGO Coordinator has joined ranks bringing our total personnel complement to three. We are still waiting for final documentations to proceed with the hiring of the Regional Director, who is expected to join by July 31, 2011.
- 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)

- IBA Training on New Lawyers (July 30 to 31)
- Law on Lawyers' Meeting (August 2)
- Field Visits to Basra and Erbil

PENDING ITEMS/ISSUES

The following items are still pending with USAID: (a) Project Implementation Plan submitted on January 16, 2011 for review and comment; and, (b) Performance Management Plan and revised monitoring Indicators (c) Grant proposals (Al Malak Human Society, Kurdistan Bar Association, Baghdad Law School, Soran Association for the Care of the Handicap, and Women for Justice)

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

July 30 to August 26, 2011

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
July 30	31	August 01	02	03	04	05
• C2/IBA - Training for new lawyers	• C2/IBA Training for new lawyers		• C3 – Law on Lawyers Meeting			
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
				• Audit Committee Meeting		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
					• RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing	RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
• RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing	• RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing	• RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing	• RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing	• RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing	• RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing	• RFA Roll-out/Grants Training on RFA and Proposal Writing