



**USAID** | **IRAQ**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع  
**ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM**

# IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #35

JULY 9 – JULY 14, 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 USAID-Iraq Access to Justice Program teams from Baghdad, Basrah and Erbil gathered in Baghdad for a two day coordination meeting to discuss the roles and responsibilities of regional offices and acquire a collective vision and understanding of program activities and scope. Interactive discussions were held to identify any issues between the three offices and improve general coordination processes involving better communication between the staff members. The regional offices presented their work plans and approach for contacting and obtaining grant applications from CSOs. The regional teams also had individual meetings with technical teams and support functions to develop a better understanding of their concepts and operational procedures. The idea behind the quarterly coordination meetings is to institutionalize processes and continue working on a joint plan which aligns directly with the intermediary results and objectives of the program.

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

Basic Communication Skills Training for Ministry of Human Rights: Responding to a request from the Ministry of Human Rights, the project conducted a preliminary introductory session on "Basic Communication Skills," on July 11, 2011 for staff members of the Media Center of the Ministry. The training obtained very good reviews from the participants and they requested in-depth training on the subject of communication and awareness raising skills. The program is now working on a week-long training on "Media and Communication Skills" for the media staff of the Ministry of Human Rights from Baghdad and surrounding provinces, in collaboration with a local Iraqi training institute.

Meetings with NGOs for New Grant Proposals: The team held several meetings with NGOs who are in the process of developing applications for rapid grants to provide and collect responses on comments regarding the technical and budgetary aspects of their proposals. The team is expecting to submit two finalized proposals to the grants team during the upcoming week. Review was made internally of the Aswat Al-Iraq proposal to prepare video journal segments chronicling the needs of vulnerable individuals for access to justice, it was identified that there is lack of clear understanding in the organization about the awareness raising requirements of the program; therefore, the team is meeting with Aswat Al-Iraq during the next week to help them understand the program requirements and develop their proposal accordingly. Review was made internally of the Soran Association for Care of the Handicapped proposal 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. More details and clarifications are required in terms of the budget and content of awareness raising activities which will be discussed in detail with NGO during the team's visit to Erbil.

## 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**

#### NGO Engagements:

- The team has followed up on engagement with NGOs in Basrah. In response to the Proposal Writing Training conducted by the program three weeks earlier, Component 2 has received proposals and concept papers from a number of organizations working with vulnerable groups including Al-Taqwa Association, Hadia Association, Al-Ferdos Organization and Amal al-Basrah Association. The Component Leader and the Legal Educational Advisor met with Women for Progress (WFP), one of the NGO partners in Baghdad. During the meeting, the two sides discussed potential of supporting the Family Support Units, set up by WFP with the support of PRT in Baghdad. Component 2 is proposing to take on the units as PRT pulls out because the project poses a unique opportunity of sustainable cooperation with the Provincial Government and offering of quality technical services to women and children in legal aid areas.
- Citizen Advocacy Advisor followed up with a number of rapid grant applicants NGOs in Baghdad that had attended the proposal writing workshop three weeks earlier. The component team is now making preparations for training NGOs on financial management, Strategic Planning, reporting, and corporate governance to develop and improve the administrative capacities of NGOs working in priority areas of Access to Justice, in order to support work that benefits vulnerable populations. The Component team will be meeting with Dr. Ahmed Attar next week to discuss the issue and garner support from the NGO Directorate.
- The Component Team continued meetings with key personnel in IADO to determine the best way forward in cooperation with them. This included a meeting at the IADO headquarters with members of Board of Directors. The team will work over the next week to complete a rapid grant application including advocacy and public awareness elements for submission to USAID for approval. The team is also finalizing the MOU with some additional points of cooperation after the last meeting.
- ERO team met this week with NGOs from Mosul and Ninewa to discuss their interest in developing rapid grant proposals. The two NGOs agreed to submit proposals during the next week, which will serve vulnerable groups in Ninewa Governorate by offering legal aid clinic services to widows primarily but also to other vulnerable groups specifically in Mosul and the Ninewa Plains.

#### Bar Association Engagement:

- Basra Regional Office communications with Basra Bar Association has resulted in a pre-plan to the IBA for playing a major role in the legal clinic that will be set up in Basra Law School next year. This includes providing the Law School with a list of the experienced lawyers in different legal fields for the purpose of establishing legal clinic, courses on moot courts for the summer training of law students. IBA in Basra is also looking forward for more cooperation with Basra Law School and the NGOs by encouraging lawyers to show

voluntary and humanitarian spirit to work for the benefit of vulnerable populations and serve the community in this province.

- The Kurdistan Bar Association has submitted a proposal with plans to recruit lawyers to serve pro bono in the intended legal clinics. This proposal will be reviewed internally in the coming week.
- BRO contacted Dr. Aqeel, Dean of the Basra Law School, and Dr. Husain to emphasize on the importance of the legal clinic, moot court and curriculum development. They agreed to provide a detailed study of these items to BRO for further review and finding the necessary recourses to provide financial assistance for some of the items discussed. Basra Law School also requested the program to assist them in improving the poor state

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

- Basra Regional Office submitted a detailed gap analysis Report of NGOs providing services to target vulnerable groups and will continue working with them to follow up on the Grant Application Process Workshop. They are currently developing checklists with some NGOs for providing substantive support to vulnerable populations.
- Erbil Regional Office is in the process of identifying female lawyers who are members of the Kurdistan Bar Association to offer pro bono legal services to vulnerable groups. One hundred female lawyers were contacted out of which five have agreed to work voluntarily in legal aid clinics; whereas seven have shown interest in receiving more information about the opportunity. ERO has also located eight residential facilities where vulnerable groups are housed in Erbil; meetings will be held with them to ask for referral of legal cases so that they can be considered in the proposed legal clinics.

## **RESULT 2.3: LAW STUDENTS TRAINED IN PRACTICAL SKILLS AND ENGAGED IN PROVIDING LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ'S VULNERABLE AND DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE**

- The Component Leaders of Legal Education and Public Advocacy met with Mr. Razaq of the Legal Committee at the Iraqi Bar Association to begin drafting a proposal to identify the major legal impediments faced by vulnerable populations in accessing their rights, and subsequently create training packages for NGOs and lawyers in areas of rights awareness and practical steps for assisting vulnerable groups in legal matters.
- Legal Education Advisor met with the Office Manager of the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Fadhil Al-Sa'edy, in MOHE. A number of matters were discussed that included Access to Justice work with Law Schools, Deans Council meeting held in last May in Erbil, reform in curriculums, and the moot courts. The Advisor also handed Dr. Fadhil a letter addressed to the Minister of Higher Education requesting a meeting with the program to seek his support on improving the legal education systems in the Law Schools.

## COMPONENT 3

# ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

### **RESULT 3.1: PROCEDURES FOR REFORMING POLICIES, LAWS AND REGULATIONS CLARIFIED OR MODIFIED SO AS TO ALLOW MORE EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT FOR ACTORS PROVIDING JUSTICE SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.**

- Group Discussion on the Violence against Women: The component team contacted a group of female legal professionals and scheduled a discussion group for deciding the next steps on work on violence against women.
- Moot Courts: The component team visited IBA and tentatively scheduled a Moot Court in Advocacy for September 27, 2011 on passage of a law on the rights of persons with disabilities. IBA indicated a desire to regularize Moot Court in Advocacy events as part of ongoing partnership with the program, potentially including events on juveniles and women's rights. Similar meetings were held with relevant actors in Ministry of Human Rights and MOLSA to discuss campaigns on passage of a law on the rights of persons with disabilities.
- ERO met with his Excellency Judge Raoof Abdulrachman, KRG Minister of Justice to request his support in efforts to establish direct relationships with residential facilities under his control (e.g., jails and prisons), to regularly collect cases and meet with prisoners to discuss their legal cases. The USAID provided clearance to the program conduct the meeting without them due to changes in dates by the Minister. The Minister accepted the programs request to provide us with a room in the common prison where we can contact prisoners to receive and discuss their cases. This represents a structural change, as lawyers, currently, do not typically meet with prisoners in the prison, and offer pro bono services.. If this project goes as planned, and cases can be pursued without causing difficulties for the prisons or the Ministry of Justice, this may represent a permanent change in the legal system.

### **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.**

- The component is actively engaged in finalizing preparations for the Roundtable Conference on Jinsiya and Formal Identity, which is scheduled for July 25, 2011.

# GRANTS

The Grants Team continues working on grant applications submitted by: Fatima House, Organization of Iraqi Family, Salam Al-Rafidain, Model Iraqi Women, Kurdistan Human Rights Watch, Al-Mortaqa, Mercy Hands, and Women Empowerment Organization. Preparations also continued for the Proposal Writing Workshops slated in Basra and Erbil for the period July 22 to July 29, 2011.

# MEDIA

Finalization of the design of the program website was completed and expected that a soft launching will be made on July 14. The program pro-forma branding and marking items are being finalized for presentation to USAID. The program fact sheet has been updated in both the English and Arabic version for eventual circulation.

# M&E

Continued the lead and discussion with all the component leaders with regards to the plan of updating the program indicators with a view of submitting a revised PMP document.

# ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

- Basra Regional Office- Negotiation is underway with Mnawi Basha Hotel as temporary office location. The program will begin finding its permanent office location after registration is made with the Register Office.
- Registration – The application for registration suffered a set back 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)**

- Grant Proposal Writing in Basrah and Erbil (July 18 to 25)
- De-brief with delegates to Violence Against Women in DC (July 23)
- Meetings with BLS, IBA
- Jinsiya Round table Conference (July 25)
- Pilot Testing with NGOs on Strategic Communication Planning
- Trainings with Young Lawyers and NGO Directorate

## **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) Grant proposals (Kurdistan Human Rights Watch, Women Empowerment Organization, Al-Rahma, and Mercy Hands)

## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

July 16 to August 12, 2011

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>July 16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting with Al-Amal Organization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basrah NGO proposal writing training</li> <li>C2 – Meeting with IBA and IJU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basrah NGO proposal writing training</li> <li>C2 – Meeting with IBA</li> <li>Meeting with MIW</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basrah NGO proposal writing training</li> <li>C2 – Meeting with IADO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basrah NGO proposal writing training</li> <li>C2 – Meeting with IBA and IJU</li> </ul>	
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Violence Against Women Briefing from DC delegates</li> <li>C1 – Pilot testing of SCP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erbil NGO proposal writing training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jensiya follow-up Roundtable at the Higher Judicial Council</li> <li>Erbil NGO proposal writing training</li> <li>Workshop with potential grantees on Pre-Testing of Training modules for Strategic Communication Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>De-brief of Jinsiya Roundtable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C2 IBA Young Lawyer Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C2 IBA Young Lawyer Training</li> </ul>	
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>August 01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>