



USAID | **IRAQ**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #33

JUNE 24 – JUNE 30, 2011

JUNE 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 33rd week of program implementation continued to ramp-up its grant activities with the training of 26 prospective partner NGOs' in Proposal Writing Skills; revisions of the grant RFA; development and finalization of grant applications for the Baghdad Law School, Mercy Hands, and the Kurdistan Human Rights Watch. The program has also finalized training plans and packages for the Ministry of Human Rights, National Institute of Human Rights, and Iraqi Bar Association. It also submitted the report on the first Roundtable discussion on Jinsiya issue.

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:** The team has developed and finalized a training package on "Basic Communication Skills" for the staff of Ministry of Human Rights as part of our agreement to provide them with technical assistance to build capacities of their staff on public outreach. The training will take place in the second week of July 2011 followed by a specialized training course for Ministry's Public Information officials.
- **Revisions in Request for Application-RFA:** The team is revising the technical details provided in the RFA for grants. The objective of this revision is to provide clear guidelines to the applicants on the funding priorities and related mechanisms of the three technical components of the program.
- **New Grant Applications:** The team reviewed and provided their input on two new grant applications received by the grants team. Mercy Hands, and the Kurdistan Human Rights Watch have applied for grants to open legal clinics for IDPs in Baghdad, Ainkawa and Khabat respectively; both projects involve a major section of public awareness campaigns using interpersonal communication and mass media tools like radio and TV. The applicants were called for negotiations and the program team assisted them to revise some budget items and a few activities to make the awareness campaign more effective and well-targeted. Rapid Grant checklists have been received from two more NGOs, Iraqi Model Women Organization and Mercy Torch, who work for women empowerment and for the rights of disabled, respectively. The two organizations are registered under Iraqi law and have experience in implementing awareness raising campaigns for their target groups. The Erbil team also conducted an off-site visit to Azwat Al-Iraq News Service to aid them in their grant proposal.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation Tools for Grantees:** The program team is working closely among components and with grantees on developing standardized tools that will assist in effective monitoring and evaluation of the

program as well as the projects implemented through grants. The component team is actively engaged with the M&E team to developed standard tools monitoring and evaluating the impact of awareness raising activities and campaigns to be implemented by the grantees as well as the program.

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

- Iraqi Bar Association and Iraqi Jurist Union Engagements: The team worked on planning out engagements with IBA, including trainings and future possible grant support; Drawn up specific points for a working document that will become a draft of an MOU that the project will seek to sign with the IBA. This draft MOU is expected to be completed for discussion purposes by the end of next week. Legal Education Advisor and Professional Development Advisor completed an initial review of the “Law of Lawyers” for the Bar Association, which will be passed on to Component 3 for further action, review, and formal legal opinion. In Basra, we are discussing with both the IBA and IJU the points raised in the Dean’s Council recommendations and their roles to assist and support the NGO’s and CSI’s in the area.
- NGO Engagements: Together with 4Points, the team conducted a proposal writing workshop for 26 NGOs from Baghdad, Diyala, Karbala, and Babil on Saturday on June 25 in the Access to Justice training facility.



The team has followed up on engagement with NGOs in Basrah that was initiated by the Grants team the previous two weeks. So far, six out of approximately 25 NGOs have demonstrated interest and will be submitting proposals to the project for vulnerable group engagements in the coming week; Citizen Advocacy Advisor followed up with NGO rapid grant candidate, Mercy Hands Association, to complete the missing information in the grant application, Rapid Grants Checklist, detailed budget notes, and the organization activity profile. The Basrah team met with Al-Firdows Organization and discussed the constraints they face in reaching out vulnerable populations.

- GOI Partner Stakeholder Engagements: A planned meeting with Dr. Farhad, the Deputy General Secretariat for the Council of Ministers (COMSEC), did not take place as Ms. Parwin Mohammad, the Assistant Director of the NGO Directorate was out of the country. A meeting is scheduled for next Thursday to discuss with other partner donor organizations ICNL and UNOPS a coordinated engagement strategy for working with the

NGO Directorate. It is hoped that a result of this meeting will be a proposed draft working paper that could eventually become an MOU to be signed between donor partners and the NGO Directorate mapping out lines of cooperation and assistance.

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

- The team, working with the Program Support Unit (PSU) Training Advisor, is finalizing plans for a proposed training of young lawyers at the IBA during the period of July 13 and 14 (tentative dates). The goal of the training is to build human rights awareness and focus on particular issues of the four project focus areas (women, refugees/IDPs, persons with disabilities, and persons without identification). Training will be conducted by specialists from both the National Institute of Human Rights and the Bar Association itself.

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

- The team is finalizing review of Baghdad Law School's (BLS) application for a grant to support the BLS Legal Aid Clinic. The team representatives will be following up with BLS on Sunday to finalize the application for submission for consideration to the Grants team. In Basrah, the team is currently working with the point person assigned by the Basra Law School, Dr. Husain Abdul Qadir, in regards establishment of legal clinic and moot court; as well as assisting them in their application for grants.
- The Erbil team has met the Bar Association Director to outline the scope of their grant proposal. It also met the University of Salahaddin, Faculty of Law, to win the council and dean approval for preparing a proposal to develop a legal clinic in their law school.

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.

- Successfully made contact with the key officials of the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers about our initiative on passage of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and made arrangements to follow up with them.

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.

- Completed and submitted the report on the first roundtable on identity issues, and met with other Components to discuss implementing the twelve recommendations flowing therefrom. The submitted report is in English and we have a draft Arabic version also. Continued preparation for the follow-up Roundtable now scheduled for July 25 to be held with the Judicial Development Institute.
- Made initial outreach to the U.N. about two possible other Roundtables, one possibly on CEDAW and one possibly on implementing the recently adopted National Strategy for Human Rights.

GRANTS

The Grants team has continued to review documents sent in by potential partners for consideration: Al-Rahma, Soran Association for the Care of Handicapped, Salam Al-Rafidain, Fatema House, Mercy Hands, Kurdistan Human Rights, Organization for Iraqi Family, Sa'ad Association of IDPs, and Samawa. It also continued its work on its grant's risk mitigation strategies, which included finalization of proposed procurement and financial manuals for use by approved NGOs and review of Risk Control Assessment Worksheets.

MEDIA

Finalization of the design of the program website was completed and expected that a soft launching will be made on July 5. 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- Final preparations are being made in setting up a temporary office for consideration by COTR. Recruitments are still underway for the NGO Advisor; Regional Director has been identified and will commence work on July 11.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES NEXT WEEK (July 2 to 7, 2011)

- Grants Training on Financial Reconciliation (July 2)
- Follow-up training on Grants Application(July 4)

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 (Iraqi Al Amal Association, Al-Rahma Humanity Association, Fatema House Charity for Women, and Women Empowerment Organization) submitted on June 21 for review pending with USAID.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

June 25 to June 30, 2011

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
July 02	03	04	05	06	07	08
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants training on Financial Reconciliation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comp 2 – Meeting with Dr. Ali Al-Rufaei (Baghdad Law School) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up training of Partners on Grant Application 				
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C3 Ministry of Human Rights Basic Communication Skills Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Meeting (Baghdad, Basra, Erbil) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit Committee meeting Regional Meeting (Baghdad, Basra, Erbil) C2 IBA Young Lawyer Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C2 IBA Young Lawyer Training 	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basrah NGO proposal writing training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basrah NGO proposal writing training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basrah NGO proposal writing training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basrah NGO proposal writing training 	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erbil NGO proposal writing training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jensiya follow-up Roundtable at the Higher Judicial Council Erbil NGO proposal writing training 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C2 IBA Young Lawyer Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C2 IBA Young Lawyer Training 	