



USAID | **IRAQ**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #25

APRIL 30 – MAY 6, 2011

MAY 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

- Access to Justice supported Over 50 Deans and selected specialists from private and public law schools from around Iraq from May 1-3. The Dean's Council used the forum to consolidate lessons learned from law school courses and clinical efforts initiated around the country since 2003. Official recommendations will be made to the Dean's Council and Ministry of Higher Education, which endorses the national curriculum. Reports and other products are expected in mid-May.
- The Component I team began regular consultations with IADO for the purpose of collecting information needed to inform the communication strategy. Subsequent meetings will be held Monday and Tuesdays, from 10-12 PM—until further notice.
- Responses to the questionnaire have been analyzed. IADO is very clear about who the strategy should target and which tools will be the most effective. They are less clear about messages and content. We will continue to work with them on developing this part of the plan.
- The meetings have also been an opportunity for IADO staff to share experiences about being disabled and how they are treated by fellow Iraqi's. They emphasized that in addition to advocating for their legal rights, the Strategy needs to address attitudes and behaviors of the general population toward people with disabilities (PWDs). More broadly, the surveys on societal perceptions of vulnerable populations will assist vulnerable groups in shaping advocacy messages.

COMPONENT 2

IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

- Between May 1-3 the Iraq Access to Justice Program (Access to Justice) supported a Dean's Council meeting in Erbil for more than sixty Deans of public and private law schools from around the country. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Dean's Council, which is legally mandated to guide law school curriculum nationally, endorsed the inclusion of law school clinics into the official law school curriculum. In addition, the Deans Council confirmed that they will be continuing efforts to modernize the national curriculum by both structural reforms and by incorporating human rights elements into courses. The Dean's Council framed the meeting in Erbil around a broader curriculum reform effort that Access to Justice helped map in March of this year and included guidance from technical assistance from Dr Mohamed Matter of Johns Hopkins University, also provided through Access to Justice. Dr Mohamed highlighted the focused consensus achieved in the short conference. Follow up meetings with Deans suggest that activity on developing the clinics is already in progress. The Dean's Council is working with the Ministry of Higher Education to further institutionalize the recommendations. Reports and recordings from the conference will be available in mid-May.
- *Erbil Regional Office* – Managed and facilitated the logistical needs of the Council of Law School Dean's Conference held on May 1 to 3.

COMPONENT 3

ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Advocacy Advisor Iman T. Ali joined the team. Component 3 is fully staffed.
- **SUB-RESULT 3.1:** Component 3 established a working relationship with the IJU through the Director of the Media Information Office. Access to Justice is working with the IJU to engage Iraqi legal experts within the IJU in reviewing existing legal and regulatory frameworks affecting vulnerable populations in Iraq. In addition to providing expert Iraqi input, the effort intends to promote greater engagement of legal professionals in analyzing issues related to vulnerable populations and contributing to reform.
- **SUB-RESULT 3.1:** Developed a draft TOR for linking the Iraq Association of Disability Organizations (IADO) with US wounded warrior groups in order to share lessons learned on creating positive advocacy strategies that link government and civil society. IADO has activated an advocacy committee of 4 persons.

GRANTS

- Provided presentation during the Component 2's Council of Law School Deans Conference in Erbil.
- Conducted TOT for and with NGO Advisor in Erbil Office.
- Preparations are being made for the May 15 training/workshop.
- Revised the RFA in line with USAID guidance to simplify the document. Revised draft to be submitted the week of May 7.

M&E

The M&E specialist worked with Component 2 to review the original NGO assessment tool in preparation for a final report and upgrading of assessment tools in the next phase of programming. Currently working on KRG NGO's data and IADO institutional assessment report as requested by Component 2 Leader.

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

- General: a draft Policy and Procedures manual will be rolled out in the next few weeks to support staff in operational and programmatic efforts. Submitted Revised Local Compensation and Staffing Plan on April 8, 2011.
- Administration: Worked on office supplies inventory and replenishment.
- IT: Continued working on the IT inventory as well as on the issue of duplicate emails. The home office will work on moving our email server to Tetra Tech server as we have a lot of issue with our mail hosting company.
- Procurement: Finalization of RFP relating to Website. RFP Translation Services has been sent out anew for direct quotation.
- *Erbil Regional Office* – handled local logistical arrangements for the Council of Dean's Conference to be held on May 1 to 3.
- *Basrah Field Office* – Legal Advisor participated on the Council of Law School Dean's meeting held in Erbil. Finalization of bids is being made for temporary and permanent offices.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES NEXT WEEK (May 14 to May 20, 2011)

- Comp 2 – Mohamed Mattar meeting with Deans in Baghdad and completing reports on law school clinics.
- Meeting with Embassy / RIPC Working Group on Trafficking 11:30-1300 at the NEC
- COP on leave May 7-May 14.

PENDING ITEMS/ISSUES

- On January 16, 2011, the Project Implementation Plan was submitted to USAID for review and comment
- Draft PMP was submitted to USAID for comment.
- A Press Release on the Deans Council meeting in Erbil was submitted on April 28 for review of USAID.
- Still receiving applications for the following national staff positions: Legal Education Advisor and Law Faculty Coordinators (three positions), and regional positions for Basrah (three positions).
- Preparations of the Basrah Field Office have been affected by the lack of secure hotels within the DOS per diem limits in Basrah, which has restricted management missions to Basrah. Other projects report being able to manage travel to Basrah as part of a cost-plus arrangement with security providers.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

April 30 to May 6, 2011

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
May 07	08	09	10	11	12	13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DD on Leave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mohamed to Baghdad Law School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised RFA Submitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mohamed to NEC and Baghdad University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit Committee Meeting • Draft report on Erbil Deans Conference 		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DD Returns • WP to ERO for Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP Returns to Baghdad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential CAP Conference in Erbil 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMV on R&R
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baghdad Grants Training • Potential date for Symposium on Access to Formal Identity. 				
28	29	30	June 01	02	03	04
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDeja on R&R • WMorrison on RRB 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basra Grants Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basra Grants Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basra Grants Training 	