



USAID | **IRAQ**
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برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #23

APRIL 16 – APRIL 22, 2011

APRIL 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 week was focused on the Strategic Communications Planning Needs Assessment Workshops and Grants Workshops conducted in KRG. The workshops were attended by a total of 77 participants coming from the bar associations, law schools, and NGOs from Erbil, Dohuk and Sulimaniya and government officials from the Kurdish Region. Mr. Azad Rostam Abdulla, Director General of the Justice Departments of the Ministry of Justice in KRG also attended as a participant.
- Over 40 Deans and Sub-Deans of private and public law schools from around Iraq are scheduled for participation in the Access to Justice sponsored Council of Deans Working Meeting on Curriculum Reform and Clinical Legal Education May 1 and 2.

- Received approval from USAID for Senior Public Advocacy Advisor - Component I Leader, Haya Ahmed, on April 19, 2011.
- Access to Justice Erbil staff workshop in April 17th, 2011.
- NGO's Workshop (April 18th, 2011). 26 persons representing thirteen NGO's participated in the workshop. The most important objectives of this workshop have been achieved by identifying the training needs of the participants for strategic communications plans. At the end of workshop, each participant approved strategic communications plan elements in which they need.
- A Workshop for Bar Association, Law Schools and Jurists Union was held on April 19th, 2011. 24 Deans, Directors of Departments, Professors and Lawyers attended the session. Only one participant from the attendees had an idea about strategic communications plans. However the main goal of this workshop was achieved which was conducting a Training Needs Assessment.



- The final workshop for strategic communications plan training needs assessment was held for Governmental Officials on April 20th, 2011. There were 27 participants, most of them Directors General in the Governmental Justice Institutions in Kurdistan. They have no previous idea about the strategic communications planning and they added that there are no units in their departments for planning communication strategies. They asked for training in most of elements of a strategic communications plan.

COMPONENT 2

IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

- **OBJECTIVE 2.1 AND 2.2:** Objective 2.1 and 2.2: Completed the preparations for a Grants Workshop for Law Schools and Legal Professional bodies and NGOs on Saturday April 23rd. The tentative frameworks for grant applications, as outlined in the RFA, currently being reviewed by USAID were discussed. Participants supported a grant program that integrated so directly with their own strategic planning and current priorities.
- Team members met with the Program Support Unit to finalize the report following the completion of the Organizational Assessment of IADO. This report will be finalized in the week of 24 April, 2011. The Organizational Assessment is a more advanced tool developed based on lessons learned from the original assessment framework generated in the first quarter, and results will be used to inform specific plans for capacity building programs with partners in the GOI, Civil Society and international organizations.
- **OBJECTIVE 2.3:** Component 2 met Mr. Salim Juma'a, Director General of MOLSA. The short meeting covered opportunities for cooperation between MOLSA and Access to Justice Program. Mr. Salim announced that the Ministry is ready to work with the Program, while noting that there will be many challenges for MOLSA and the Program to overcome together.
- **OBJECTIVE 2.4:** The Chief of Party, Component 2, and the M&E Specialist met with DG Kamil Ameen of the Directorate of Performance Monitoring & Rights Protection / MOHR on April 20, 2011. The meeting focused on cooperation in exchanging information and providing documents about vulnerable groups. As reported previously, data on vulnerable populations and the programs designed to support them is very sparse. In a major step forward, the MOHR has agreed to share its database on vulnerable populations with the Program and welcomed data generated by the Program to support its own work in generating national policy.
- Meeting with Dr. Muwafaq Yahya Hamdun / Ministry of Higher Education (Emad Fakhri & Ali Ghalib) on Monday April 18th. This visit was to coordinate the work with MoHE. The points of discussion covered Access to Justice Program activities, legal clinics, Dean's council meeting and curriculums reform in addition to moot courts.
- The team drafted a letter for the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research about the Working Meeting of the Council of Deans. This will be handed to the Minister on Sunday April 24th by the Director General charged with curriculum reform. The letter focused on the Curriculum Reform and Clinic legal Educations in Iraq Meeting in Erbil next first of May.
- Erbil Regional Office – Briefly met with Deans and/or representatives from six university law schools with regards to the slated Council of Dean's meeting; also contacted the KMoHE on the same event. Continued facilitation and provision of support for the Council of Dean's meeting.

COMPONENT 3

ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Received approval for Advocacy Advisor on April 16, 2011.
- **OBJECTIVE 3.2:** Component 3 had a meeting with the Hannah Youth NGO to discuss Jinsiya issues, and potential partnership opportunities going forward; talked about our Component's priorities overall, but with particular focus on Hannah Youth's potential role in a jinsiya symposium. Also held a meeting with the Karbala division of the Iraqi Bar Association and with a key human rights lawyer from Karbala and with UNAMI's representative in Karbala.

GRANTS

- Organized and presented workshop in Erbil Regional Office during the week. The workshop was participated in by Access to Justice regional staff. Workshops were also give to 26 persons representing thirteen NGO's as well as 24 Deans, Directors of Departments, Professors and Lawyers from the bar associations and law schools in Erbil, Dohuk and Sulimaniya.
- The Grants Team revised its list of requirements for a Grants Management Information System in line with comments provided by the USAID Contract Specialist and the RFQ has been updated and circulated.

M&E

M&E Specialist submitted to COP the Indicator Reference Sheet and Indicator Management Sheet. M&E also worked with Component 2 to move forward with a final compilation of 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 (expected to be completed on April 26, 2011). In addition, met with Mr. Kamil Ameen, DG of Performance Monitoring Directorate of MOHR and discussed the data we requested during the last meeting.

Training

Training Specialist provided in-house training to staff on training methodology.

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: staff contracts are being prepared for extension; attended last April 21, 2011 information session on USF-I badge online application
- IT: provided technical support to the Erbil Regional Office, set up of the computers for the new two staff members for the Basra Field Office, and general IT helpdesk/support. Continued working on the IT inventory as well as on the issue of duplicate emails. The HO will work on moving our email server to Tetra Tech server as we have a lot of issue with our mail hosting company.
- Procurement: Facilitated design and production of conference materials and translation.
- *Comptrollership*: Continued review of audit systems available for adaptation for Iraq Access to Justice Program (this is ongoing); finalizing review of the audit plan and submission of this audit plan to the audit committee and COP.
- *Erbil Regional Office* – handled the logistical arrangements and translation for the Component I and Grants Management workshops.
- *Basrah Field Office* – received approval for the Legal Advisor on April 16, Office Manager was in Baghdad Main Office for her general orientation and meetings.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES NEXT WEEK (April 30 to May 5, 2011)

- Training of Law School Deans on Grants Processes (April 23)
- Comp 1- STTA (Joanna Finchley) arrived and will begin work with IADO and Comp 1
- Comp 2 - Meeting with DG of Ministry of Higher Education (April 24)
- Comp 3 - Meeting with National Institute for Human Rights of the Ministry of Human Rights (April 27)
- COP – Monthly meeting with IADO on April 27
- Preparations for Council of Dean's Meeting in Erbil (May 1-3)

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.
- 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).

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

April 16 to April 22, 2011

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPryor returns from RRB • Training of Law School Deans on Grant Process • Comp 1 STTA start day of work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comp 2 - Meeting with DG of MoHE 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IADO Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comp 3 – Meeting with the Director General / Directorate of Legal Issues of MoHR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RdPB in Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comp 2 staff in Erbil
30	May 01	02	03	04	05	06
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPryor/RDeja in Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Reform and Legal Education/Next Steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Reform and Legal Education/Next Steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Reform and Legal Education/Next Steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPosely on R&R 		
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arab Summit • Audit Committee 		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential CAP Conference in Erbil 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMV on R&R