



USAID | **IRAQ**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #21

APRIL 2 – APRIL 7, 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

- After many years of effort, a systemic approach to improving legal curriculum appears within reach as partnerships between the Deans Council, the Iraq Access to Justice Program, and international actors such as the EC, U.S. Embassy, and DePaul University link to the GOI's legislatively mandated reform system through the work of the Iraq Access to Justice Program. If carefully nurtured and supported, these efforts will contribute to the Intermediate Results of the Program: lawyers with more practical skills to assist vulnerable populations and legal clinics at law schools that increase vulnerable population's access to quality information and support.
- USAID has indicated that the grants manual may be approved next week, which will open up access to support planned for Civil Society Actors, including professional organizations, academic institutions, and NGOs, that are directly assisting vulnerable populations.
- **OBJECTIVE 1.1:** Approval for Comp 1 – STTA, Joana Finchley, obtained from USAID March 31, 2011. Arrangements to put her on board are being organized, however the Program will require additional USAID support for completing SPOT registration.
- **ERBIL REGIONAL OFFICE:** The ERO is working with both Component 1 and the Grants team to organize coordinated workshops in Erbil starting the week of the 17th.

IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

- **OBJECTIVE 2.2:** Component 2 and the ERO engaged with the Kurdistan Jurist Union, who conveyed several long-standing plans for improving access to justice for vulnerable populations.
- **OBJECTIVE 2.3:** The Council of Deans, which is mandated by the Ministry of Higher Education to manage curriculum for law schools, confirmed a working meeting in Erbil on May 1-2, which will be supported in part by the Iraq Access to Justice Program to move forward with the addition of practical clinical education and services at law schools. The European Commission will also be supporting the meeting.
- The KMoHE reported to the Program that they have a comprehensive curriculum reform framework in development that will create institutional reform mechanisms in order to better manage the quality of higher education in the Kurdistan Region. The KMoHE supports the concepts behind the current curriculum reform efforts and looks forward to engaging in the May working meeting with the Deans.
- The team also met with representatives of the Depaul University's Legal Education Reform Project known as "Raise the Bar II", which is funded by a grant from DRL. Highlights of the national program include a moot court program and long experience with capacity building with law school faculty.
- **ERBIL REGIONAL OFFICE:** The ERO supported additional meetings with law schools from the following universities: Koya, Soran, Sulaymaniya and Qaradagh; and met the Deans of the Faculty of Law to discuss the Access to Justice Program and its objectives.
- Received approval from USAID for MG Ali Ghalib, Professional Development Advisor. He will commence work on April 11, 2011.

COMPONENT 3

ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- An Advocacy Advisor has been identified and will be presented for COTR approval as soon as required documentation is received from applicant.
- Preparations for a Symposium on Formal Identity issues initiated after meetings with Civil Society, legal professional organizations, and government actors confirmed the complexities of the issues. Many partners are either engaged in, or are willing to be engaged in, the issues.

GRANTS

- Received from USAID its updated review/comment on the Grants Manual submitted on February 24, 2011. Currently working on it to provide/incorporate comments for an updated final version.
- Grants Management team held a meeting to review pertinent OMB Circulars: A-133, A-110 and A122; prepared a simplified presentation materials for use in the Erbil Workshop
- Preparations are underway for the Grants Workshop to be held in Erbil on April 17 to 22.
- Met with Training Specialist Training Tool Kit on strategic planning for developing training courses.
- Developed a draft Accounting System & Financial Capabilities Questionnaire for use in Risk Control screening of NGO/CSO (one of the deliverables required by contract).
- Provided revision and edits of Risk Control worksheets.
- Finalized RFA and Pilot Project non-competitive grant justification letters.

M&E

Specialist contributed to the development of tracking forms and databases in support of Operations, Component 1, and Component 2.

Training

Training Specialist: Developed TOT course for Program staff to review for use with partners when training programs mature. The course focuses on developing skills for facilitating rather than teaching. Also, this week the Training and M&E Specialists worked together to develop tools for M&E considerations in the training plan.

Media

After several postponements due to security considerations, the Media Specialist was able to capitalize on a brief window of opportunity to schedule a Pilot Project launch on March 31, 2011. The launch included music from the Iraqi Association of Disabilities Organization (IADO) band, photo displays capturing key issues facing vulnerable populations in areas related to access to justice. Also prepared photos of key events for the quarterly report.

Gender

The Program has identified a strong candidate for gender and other work and paperwork is expected to be submitted to the COTR this week.

Erbil Regional Office

Engaged with Nujeen Organization for Family Democratizing in Dahuk governorate, which focuses on gender and disabilities in its programming.



Iraq Association for Disabilities Organizations (IADO) and Iraq Access to Justice Program Confirm Partnership March 31, 2011

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

- General: a draft Policy and Procedure manual will be rolled out in the next few weeks to support staff in operational and programmatic efforts. Controller arrived in Baghdad from Erbil.
- Recruitment and Staffing: Obtained approval from Home Office for Hadi Al-Kindi, Legal Advisor/Basrah. Request for USAID approval will ensue. Interpreter started work on April 3. Office Manager – Basrah confirmed employment and will begin work on April 11. She will be in Baghdad on that date to receive orientation. The recruitment papers for the Policy Advocacy Advisor were sent for home office action.
- Administration: Staff contracts are being prepared for extension. Worked with Grants Management and Component 1 teams for their Erbil activities slated on April 17.
- Procurement: Completed review of RFQ submissions for Translation Services and Office Supplies. PRM for Templates and Website were sent to Home Office for approval. As most equipment requested from RTI will not be made available until September, currently working on revised procurement plan.
- IT/Network: Worked on IT/Equipment inventory.
- Finance: Prepared regular month-end submission to Home Office.
- *Erbil Regional Office* – prepared detailed logistic and work plan for the slated April and May meetings to be conducted by the Baghdad team in Erbil.

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

- Strategic Communication Plan Training needs assessment workshop and Grants Management Workshop scheduled for Erbil in mid-April.
- Minister of Human Rights meeting on April 11, 2011.
- Risk Control/Financial Reconciliation and OMB Circulars training for Grants Management team..
- Comp 2 – Preparations underway for Curriculum Reform and Legal Education Meeting to be attended by the members of the Council of Deans in Erbil on May 1 to May 3.
- *Erbil Regional Office*: Engagement with RRT and preparations for Comp 1 and Grants training.

PENDING ITEMS/ISSUES

- On January 16, 2011, the Project Implementation Plan was submitted to USAID for review and comment.
- A draft PMP was submitted to USAID on March 25, 2011 for comment.
- Still receiving applications for the following national staff positions (republished in February): Legal Education Advisor and Law Faculty Coordinators (three positions), Regional Office positions in Basrah.
- SPOT enrollment for Joanna Finchley has been delayed. Assistance requested.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

April 2 to April 7, 2011

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with Dr Salah Saleh from Baghdad Law School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AKovacevic returns from R&R 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk Control Training Meeting with the MoHR (with USAID) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comp 3 meeting with Ministry of Women OMB Circular Training for Grant Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Reconciliation Training for Grant Staff 		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WP on RRB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops in Erbil Regional Office: Strategic Communication Planning and Grants Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops in Erbil Regional Office: Strategic Communication Planning and Grants Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops in Erbil Regional Office: Strategic Communication Planning and Grants Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops in Erbil Regional Office: Strategic Communication Planning and Grants Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops in Erbil Regional Office: Strategic Communication Planning and Grants Management 	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPryor returns from RRB 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training of Law School Deans on Grant Process 				
30	May 01	02	03	04	05	06
	<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 		