



USAID | **IRAQ**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #18

MARCH 12 – MARCH 17, 2011

MARCH 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 COP and Component 2 briefed the Dean's Council on the Iraq Access to Justice Program (Program), and the Dean's Council approved an offer of support from the Program for assistance in the development of clinical education as a formal part of the law school curriculum in Iraq.
- **OBJECTIVE I.1:** Short Term Technical Assistance has been approved to assist in finalizing training materials for strategic communication planning, and the development of a strategic communication plan for IADO as part of the Pilot Project efforts under Component I. Per workplan design, the team is building towards a refined package that can be used for a Training of Trainer (TOT) approach.
- **PSU:** Developed training forms, training templates, M&E forms and registration materials for the Comp I workshop.
- **ERBIL REGIONAL OFFICE:** The office will host strategic communication plan needs assessment workshops with Component I in early April.

IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

- **ERBIL REGIONAL OFFICE:** Met with Yadgar Kamal from Kurdistan Democratic Youth Union, who raised the issue of youth and drug use related to cross border trafficking from Iran; Dr. Jutiyar, who is with the Sarang Center, a legal NGO, mentioned that they can help us when we reach the stage of focusing on draft laws for people with disabilities as the regional Parliament sends draft laws to them before they are discussed in Parliament; Finally, the ERO gathered more information about Salahaddin University, Ishik University, and Jihan University Colleges of Law regarding the contents of curriculum assessments made in the past four years.
- **PILOT PROJECT:** Prepared for the 3rd Pilot Project Meeting, scheduled for March 24, 2011. The meeting will confirm shared efforts across three components, including work in essential administrative capacity for IADO and improved linkages to legal information and support for people with disabilities that lack access to services. A major part of the advocacy and other work will be a survey that creates reliable information on the issues facing people with disabilities. If supported by IADO, this will be the first large scale survey in this sector since 1977.
- **OBJECTIVE 2.3:** The Dean's Council, which is responsible for making formal curriculum review recommendations to the Ministry of Higher Education, considered and approved an offer of support from the Iraq Access to Justice Program for assistance in the development of clinical education as a formal part of the law school curriculum in Iraq. The Council reported that it has been considering the issue of reform, and especially the consideration of clinics, for several years. Previous efforts have not been integrated into the formal GOI system that dictates national curriculum. The Council advised that this round of review integrate with GOI systems in order to encourage sustainable and effective reforms. The Council recommended that a conference scheduled for late April be shifted to early May in order to allow for the support of specialist technical advice. The Program is working closely with U.S. Embassy, the EU JUSTLEX program and other partners to coordinate support for the efforts of the Council. The Program will be circulating a draft assessment of the status of curriculum reform this week.

GRANTS

- Finalized work on Grants Application Workshop scheduled for March 20, 2011.
- Candidate was interviewed for the remaining position of NGO Coordinator.
- Developed materials for Pilot Project Grant applications in preparation for approval of the Grants Manual.

Gender

- Gender Specialist worked with M&E Specialist to support inclusion of gender dynamics into M&E plan. Work continued on updating UN and other tools for the use of the Program, with a “Toolkit” planned for delivery before the Gender Specialist finishes her assignment on March 21, 2011.
- Recruiting is progressing quickly for a new Gender Specialist.

Erbil Regional Office

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

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.
- Recruitment and Staffing: COTR approvals were received for the following positions: Citizen Advocacy Advisor, Finance officer, Accountant, Finance Assistant and Advocacy Assistant. The first three mentioned positions will commence work on March 22, 2011. Home Office approval was obtained last March 17 for the position of Interpreter and will put forward a request to USAID on March 20, 2011. Office Manager – Basrah confirmed acceptance of the position and will commence work on April 5, 2011. Operations department continues to receive and track job application as a result of our re-advert February 23, 2011. USF-I Badges for all expatriates are awaiting issuance.
- Procurement: RFQ for Translation Services and Office Supplies (BPA) have been finalized and circulated.
- IT/Network: Working on the IT inventory report.
- *Erbil Regional Office:*
 - New ERO Regional Director started work last March 15, 2011

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

- Update workshop materials on Strategic Plan Development in preparation for an Erbil workshop in early April.
- Grants Application Workshop on March 20, 2011
- IADO workshop on Survey Design March 24, 2011
- PMP / Workplan harmonization process with Regional Office participation as possible.
Erbil Regional Office: Quantification of NGO Questionnaire data by transcribing data from interview sessions into a table developed with the Baghdad office. The form will assist in demonstrating the relative weight given to issues and vulnerable populations by Iraqi partners.

PENDING ITEMS/ISSUES

- On January 16, 2011, the Project Implementation Plan was submitted to USAID for review and comment.
- USAID comments on Performance Management Plan received. Per agreement, revised document to be submitted at the conclusion of M&E Specialist technical assistance in late March. COTR and USAID Monitoring Specialist responded favorably to briefing on revisions to date, and agreed verbally to the submission of a final draft on Monday, March 21 at the end of the technical assistance.
- Still receiving applications for the following national staff positions (republished in February): Professional Development Advisor, Legal Education Advisor and Law Faculty Coordinators (three positions), Regional Office positions in Basrah. References are being reviewed for a senior applicant for the position of Professional Development Advisor.
- USAID approval of Revised Grants Manual (submitted on February 24, 2011 per guidance).

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant application Workshop preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants team trial of training materials on Grant Application writing for NGOs 	Local Staff Holiday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comptroller arrives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Meeting DoO to Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd Pilot Project Meeting: IADO Workshop on Survey Design RdPB returns from RRB 	
26	27	28	29	30	31	April 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COP Travel to Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comp I: Planning teleconference with ERO for Strategic Plan training needs assessment 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with Dean's Council (tentative) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last Thursday series – International Freedom of Expression/Voice for Vulnerable Populations 	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AK on R&R 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comp I – Travel to Erbil 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office Manager – Basrah reports to work/Start of opening the Basrah office Grants Training on PMP and Workplan (five days) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	