



**USAID** | **IRAQ**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع  
**ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM**

# IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #16

FEBRUARY 25 – MARCH 4, 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 Chief of Party met with the NGO Coordinator's Office of the Prime Minister's Office to discuss Program Steering Committee requirements. The Coordinator's Office agreed to partner in hosting an Access to Justice conference that will confirm Program objectives with partners from civil society, government, legal education, and professional organizations. Planning will begin in March as other events and demonstrations allow, with a target date of April for the event.

- **OBJECTIVE 1.1:** *Objective 1.1:* As part of efforts to improve population awareness of issues facing vulnerable populations, build an awareness of how a free media supports justice for vulnerable populations on International Media Freedom Day, and to encourage more positive relationships between partners working with vulnerable groups, the Program is working with IREX and other Al-Mansour partners to host media, artists, and NGOs at the Al Mansour compound. Security considerations may delay the event.
- **OBJECTIVE 1.1:** A workshop to inform a training needs assessment for Strategic Communication Planning is planned for March 7.

# IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

- **OBJECTIVE 2A:** The Component worked with IADO to initiate linkages to the Ministry of Planning, Bureau of Statistics as part of preparations for a national survey on disabilities. Additional linkages to the Ministry of Planning; The Program is coordinating with the office of the UN Human Rights Officer to review opportunities for working with IADO in building a coalition to advocate for Iraqi accession to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. On March 15, IADO will Chair the next meeting of the Pilot Project Steering Committee.
- **PROGRAM SUPPORT UNIT:** Assessed initial documents to develop steps for a comprehensive training plan for IADO; with Component 2, recommend a Capacity Assessment be completed in partnership with IADO and other partners to both assist IADO and to contribute to the NGO Coordinator's office efforts to better define standards for NGOs.
- **OBJECTIVE 2B:** The Iraqi Bar Association and Iraqi Jurist Union meetings have progressed well. Institutional engagement mechanisms are being explored and further progress will be closely linked to the release of the Program's Request for Applications.
- **OBJECTIVE 2C:** The survey of law schools has completed. Although demonstrations restricted some movements, a healthy cross section of private and public schools was reviewed. Many schools reported that they had not received materials from previous assessments. On the other hand, the Dean's Committee expressed a firm commitment to several principles, including the inclusion of clinics at law schools, once procedural and regulatory issue are resolved. The Program will be circulating a draft of the assessment to the Dean's Committee and partners by mid-March in preparation for a formal meeting of the Committee to review next steps.
- **ERBIL REGIONAL OFFICE:**
  - By March 03<sup>rd</sup>2011, the Erbil Office interviewed 35 NGOs from three KRG Governorates
  - Faculty at 3 universities and 1 legal association were surveyed. Appointments had to be rescheduled for 2 of the universities

### COMPONENT 3

# ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- The COP has approved a candidate for Advocacy Advisor, and paperwork has been forwarded to the appropriate channels.
- Met with IADO to discuss two related priorities as part of the Pilot Project efforts, developing a coalition to support Iraqi accession to the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and a related legal journal for the review of policies, regulations and legislation related to disabilities, with a special consideration of how accession to the UN Convention may impact domestic legal frameworks.
- *Program Support Unit:* Began outlining training requirements related to Component 3.

# GRANTS

- Trained Grant Coordinators on PMP and our annual Work plan and how they relate to the Grant Application and planning Program Activities.
- Conducted grants training for internal audience as part of our kick-off process

## Gender

- The Gender Specialist drafted a toolkit based on UN sources to assist team members and partners in addressing gender considerations as they refine workplans and prepare for grant formulation.

# ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

- Recruitment and Staffing: Requests for COTR approval for the following positions were sent: Finance Officer, Accountant, Office Manager – Basrah, Citizen Advocacy Advisor and Finance Assistant. Approvals are still pending. The M&E Specialist and the Administrative Officer started their work this week. Request for DPK Home Office approval for the position of Interpreter has been submitted. Advocacy Assistant position has been put forward to LBG Home Office for onward processing. Continues to receive job application as a result of our re-advert last February 23, 2011.
- Procurement: Drafts RFQ for Translation Services and Office Supplies have been written; procurement plan is continually being updated.
- IT/Network – conducted presentation on file sharing and data back-up; enabled new server and migrated existing files from the temporary server; installed domain controller.
- Finance – developed detailed operating budgets in collaboration with the DPK HO Program Officer and Business Manager.
- Continued collaboration with the DPK Home Office Program Officer and Business Manager in formalizing various office manuals as detailed on Weekly Report No. 15.
- *Erbil Regional Office:*
  - The Erbil Office Regional Director, Ms. Hiba Ismail, submitted her resignation. 4 points proposed a new candidate to DPK for the position and is awaiting DPK's feedback.
  - Interviewed two Project Assistants (Mr. Salar and Mr. Belal). A final decision for employment should be made next week.
  - Mr. Barwary, Legal Advisor, is finalizing all necessary governmental documentation to operate as a company from the office location.
  - Mr. Barwary visited the Directorate of Labor and Social Security and work to open the accounts to the staff of the Office of Erbil in the Department of Labor and Social Security.

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

- Symposium on Identity Issues: Policy, Regulations and Laws Limiting Access to Jinsiyah postponed due to security delays. New date anticipated for late March.
- Forum on Strategic Communication Planning scheduled for March 9; the outcome will lead to training packages for CSOs on how to develop plans for delivering a message to a target population. Other workshops planned for government actors and professional organizations.
- Planned in house Risk Control Training for Grants Staff to take place on week starting March 5.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Ann Schwartz, returned to finalize Performance Management Plan.

## PENDING ITEMS/ISSUES

- On January 16, 2011, the Project Implementation Plan was submitted to USAID.
- USAID comments on Performance Management Plan received. Per agreement, response on hold pending arrival of M&E Specialist in early March.
- Still receiving applications for the following national staff positions (that were also published in Al-Sabah newspaper on December 23): Professional Development Advisor, Legal Education Advisor and Law Faculty Coordinators (three positions). Started receiving applications for the positions in Basrah.
- USAID approval for Citizen Advocacy Advisor, Office Manager – Basrah, Finance Officer, Finance Assistant and Accountant are all pending.
- USAID approval of Revised Grants Manual (submitted on February 24, 2011 per guidance).

## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>March 5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AMV on RRB</li> <li>• Anne Schwartz arrives</li> <li>• Grants Team Training on PMP and Workplan</li> <li>• Risk Control Training for Grants Staff</li> <li>• ASegerSprain (home office) departs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with HJC and JDI</li> <li>• Erbil Legal Advisor will visit Dahuk University to discuss Access to Justice work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with USAID (PMP)</li> <li>• Erbil Legal Advisor will visit Nawroz University to discuss Access to Justice work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Women's Day</li> <li>• Meeting with IJU</li> <li>• Erbil Legal Advisor will visit Cihan University to discuss Access to Justice work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anticipated release of RFA for grants.</li> <li>• Forum on Strategic Communication Planning - Comp I</li> <li>• RDatta (home office) departs</li> <li>• Erbil Legal Advisor will visit Salahaddin University to discuss Access to Justice work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with Ministry: Women Affairs and Civil Society Affairs</li> <li>• Erbil Legal Advisor will visit British Royal University to discuss Access to Justice work</li> </ul>	
<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AMV returns from RRB</li> <li>• Grants meeting with Component Leaders and PMP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Postponed: to be rescheduled) Symposium on Jinsiya Law (Comp 3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to USAID: PMP</li> <li>• IADO Workshop Design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RdPB on RRB</li> </ul>			
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant application Workshop</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RdPB returns from RRB</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Planning Meeting (if security allows travel of Erbil Regional Office)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Planning Meeting</li> <li>• First Thursday series – International Freedom of Expression/Voice for Vulnerable Populations</li> </ul>	
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>April 1</b>	<b>2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AK on R&amp;R</li> </ul>	