



USAID | **IRAQ**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #13

FEBRUARY 5 – FEBRUARY 11, 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

- Annual Work Plan for Year I submitted to USAID last February 5, 2011
- Planning for a symposium in March on issues related to denial of identity initiated. While a simple denial of a government service on its face, the issue implicates delicate personal status and complex government assistance programs. The symposium will guide programmatic approaches to supporting institutions engaged in assisting populations lacking formal identity.
- Forum on Strategic Communication Planning scheduled for March 7; the outcome will lead to training packages for CSOs and professional organizations on how to develop plans for delivering messages to a target population. The skill set will benefit both legal assistance and information providers communicating to vulnerable populations and agencies developing advocacy plans to target better implementation or reform of legal frameworks.

COMPONENT I:

- Organizing meeting for A2J team with some members of Women, Social Welfare & Education Commissions in the Baghdad Provincial Council with attendance of some local NGO's specialist from the womens and human rights sector.
- DCOP met Component I team members, as well as with the Media Specialist, to initiate the work plan of Component I and develop necessary immediate steps for building a curriculum for strategic communication plan training.
- Developed draft agenda, budget and participant list for a workshop to develop training materials on the use of Strategic Communication Plans for NGO's and legal actors working in justice sector. The workshop is being scheduled for early March and will focus on developing the Training Needs Assessment and Training Objectives needed to refine training materials with the Program Support Unit.

COMPONENT 2

IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

- Finalized Pilot Project framework, including confirming buy-in from Iraqi Alliance for Disability Organizations (IADO) and ICAN at two separate meetings this week. Mr Waay Kadhem, Director of Iraq Civil Action Network (ICAN) noted that they had participated in previous mentoring efforts with NID, and that they are strongly committed to working with the Iraq Access to Justice Program in both the Pilot Project (as a mentor institution) and in areas such as persons without formal identification.
- Initiated formal engagement with local governance structures through meeting with the Baghdad Provincial Council, and the National Institute of Human Rights (a department of the Ministry of Human Rights). Dr Saad Hussein of the National Institute has offered to establish a committee bringing together NGO, Ministerial, community and professional actors to engage in guiding the implementation of the Program. Discussions about timing for the meeting are on-going.
- Mapped strategic engagement options with the elected leadership of the Iraqi Bar Association, Iraqi Union of Jurists and Young Lawyers Association in a joint meeting. The meeting progressed well after a rocky start that began with an admonition that the Program should not “provide any more training” as the organizations were committed to moving on concrete efforts. After discussions about strategic efforts to improve the ability of professional organizations to deliver legal services, the three entities expressed a strong commitment to the issues being discussed and were open to further discussions.
- Legal curriculum development progressed with several site visits and engagement with the formal reform process initiated for next week. The U.S. Office of the Rule of Law Coordinator (OROLC) has been very active in capturing the results of the consultative process initiated in 2008 with the European Commission and Baghdad PRT. The Program is working closely with the OROLC to capture lessons learned and will continue to engage as next steps are mapped out.

COMPONENT 3

ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Plan created for a forum in March on the issue of groups struggling without access to formal government identity cards. This group crosses many ethnic and social lines, which has to some extent isolated the problem from other programs. The groups without identification are highly marginalized without access to education, health care, or social support networks such as food rations, and include multiply vulnerable populations such as children. The forum will bring together experts and actors engaged in the issue to discuss causes and potential interventions for improving access to government identification.
- As part of the Component 3 contribution to the Pilot Project, drafted a framework for partnering with a law school to sponsor a legal journal dedicated to policies, laws and regulations related to people with disabilities. We met with the Iraqi Bar Association, Jurists Association, and Young Lawyers Association, and will be linking with Component 2 to explore likely partners for a grant when mechanisms are in place.
- IADO has identified wounded veterans from the Iran / Iraq war and others injured through terrorism as a primary target group. Component 3 identified a “Wounded Warrior” network in the U.S. with extensive experience in advocating for policy, regulatory and legal implementation and reform in the U.S. as a potential mentor for IADO. A workshop or conference is being discussed for May if grant mechanisms are in place..

GRANTS

- Based on the comments received from USAID, developed responses and updated the Grants Manual, which will be resubmitted for consideration.
- Ali Ayad, NGO Coordinator, started work on February 7, 2011. Together with Comp 2 Leader, met with ICAN to explain the FOG mechanism.
- Developed presentation materials and organized training on grants processes and training dates
Continued working on the RFA

Training

- The Training Specialist has developed a draft framework for curriculum development to assist the 3 Components. Component 1 will be starting the development of formal curriculum by hosting a workshop to build the engagement of partners in the curriculum by involving them in the needs analysis and development of Training Objectives. The Training Specialist will assist Component 1 in planning this workshop in early March.
- Training Specialist visited the Developing Staff Center to review course offerings and collect materials.
- Draft training materials for NGO capacity building and communication have been collected to inform the formal curriculum development process.

Communications

Communication Specialist introduced the Iraq Access to Justice Program to an NGO training organized through the Baghdad PRT and 4 Points. (Note: if the training is successful, Component 2 will review for applicability for training partner NGOs in anticipation of substantive training).

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

- Recruitment and Staffing – currently finalizing the hiring papers for the Office Manager – Basrah; candidates for the position of Citizen Advocacy Advisor, Accountant, and Finance Assistant declined moving forward their application after being considered for the jobs. Gevara Bhakri, Procurement Officer, started work on February 9, 2011; Ali Ayad, NGO Coordinator, started on February 7, 2011.
- Information Technology – File Server and network files created and installed.
- Component 1 Team Leader – an USAID approved candidate withdrew late last week for family reasons. The Communications Specialist is assisting with programming in the interim, and two new candidates have been interviewed.

Erbil Regional Office (ERO)

Program Activities:

- On February 5, 2011, Hiba Ismail, Regional Director conducted a meeting with five organizations that work on the access issues for people with disabilities. There was a brief orientation on the Iraq Access to Justice Program, and a discussion about potential areas for engagement with the 3 primary components of the Program.
- The Erbil Regional office completed several interviews with NGOs in the Kurdistan Region for incorporation into the Rapid Assessment document that is guiding implementation.
- The ERO is developing schedules and support for the Component 2 review of law school curriculum between February 20-23. The list of universities to be visited includes Salahaddin, Kurdistan, Royal British, and Jihan Universities; The NGO Specialist completed assessments for three NGOs for inclusion in the Rapid Assessment: the Criminal and Social Research Center, Public Aid Organization, and Al-Masala Organization for Human resource Development.

Operations Activities:

- Team members started operating officially on February 6, 2011.
- The ERO has submitted the paperwork required by local regulations to the Kurdistan Region Ministry of the Interior (KMOI) and the Ronaki Neighborhood.
- Upcoming events at the ERO: NGOs specialist (Zhiyan Ahmad) and Regional Director (Hiba Ismail) are translating the list of officially registered NGOs in the KRG area into English from Kurdish.
- Preparations for law school assessment missions from the Iraq Access to Justice Program specialist to be coordinated with the Component 2 Team Lead.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES NEXT WEEK (February 19 to 25, 2011)

- CAP Partner Meeting and Presentation (February 14)
- Symposium on Identity Issues: Policy, Regulations and Laws Limiting Access to Jinsiyah scheduled for March 14; the outcome will inform grant programming for Component 1, 2, and 3.
- Forum on Strategic Communication Planning scheduled for March 7; the outcome will lead to training packages for CSOs and professional organizations on how to develop plans for delivering a message to a target population
- Pilot Project framework, including key partner, Iraqi NGO mentor, and initial grants from Components 1,2 and 3 circulated for review.
- Draft of Rapid Assessment circulated for internal review at the end of next week.
- Security briefings for Program staff will be held next week.

PENDING ITEMS/ISSUES

- On January 16, 2011, the Project Implementation Plan was submitted to USAID, which is still pending their review and approval.
- USAID comments on PMP received and being reviewed.
- 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.
- Drafting of Communication Guideline by our Media Specialist on-going since January 28, 2011; a Communications Committee will be established to review progress and develop an action plan for critical communication elements in anticipation of the home office visit at the end of February.
- Recruiting guidelines to be developed and implemented to assist Component Leads in participating effectively in staffing decisions

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
February 12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Deja returns from RRB • Visit/Meeting to Baghdad and Al-Nahrain Universities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP Partner meeting • Meeting with DG of NGOs • Visit/Meeting to Turath University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Office representatives in-country for field visit through March 3 • Internal training on Grant process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McKinley Posely takes his RRB
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph Deaunay returns from LWOP • Comp 2 in Basra 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of Erbil University visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with IADO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Team Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last Thursday series – International Freedom of Expression/Voice for Vulnerable Populations 	
26	27	28	March 1	2	3	4
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law school visits for HO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner's meeting (LBG, Sallyport, DPK) 		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

