



USAID | **IRAQ**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #10

JANUARY 15 – JANUARY 21, 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

- Rima Das Pradhan-Blach, Component 2 Leader, arrived on 16 January
- Preparation of RFAs for data management system and Grant Rollout.
- Finalized the preliminary report on the Assessment of Vulnerable Populations.
- Decided on provider for ISP/VSAT internet and printer/copier

COMPONENT 2

IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

- Rima Das Pradhan-Blach arrived on 16 January and check in with in-country office.
- Briefings from gender advisor and team conducting assessment of NGOs.
- Shared relevant background documents on SharePoint for the country team regarding vulnerable populations in Iraq. E.g. Government and NGO submission to the UN Human Rights Commission for the UPR process of 2010.
- Coordination with former World Bank lead, Jean Jacques Frere on disabilities project update.
- Reestablished contact with World Bank, Paul Prettitore, who is the lead on World Bank A2J project to ensure coordination.
- Initiated review of project documents including the work plan and PMP.
- Reviewed applicants for four remaining components.
- Preliminary consultation with the lead, Sermid al-Sarraf on assessment of universities and initiated logistical preparations. (Component 2)
- Organized stock-taking meeting on 23 Jan 2011 of all components and cross-cutting elements to discuss what has been achieved and next steps to ensure harmonization and integration.
- Advice provided as needed to COP on requests the Embassy as well as requests to USG partners for relevant information.

COMPONENT 3

ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Component 3 continued assessment work and completed legal assessments for women and for children (now posted on Sharepoint system) internally for comment. Focus was on the Constitution (law, discussion, and controversy), followed by treaty obligations, and then by Iraqi statutes, practical considerations, and recommended high-priority interventions. A similar assessment was well along in preparation as to the law of minorities, particularly religious minorities. One conclusion that emerges from all of this assessment work is that enforceable Iraqi law frequently fails to match the high-minded principles and obligations set forth in the Constitution and under treaties to which Iraq is a party. This means that a great deal of work needs to be done in linking the Constitution and treaty obligations to improved statutory law and practice that will provide enforceable rights to claimants and plaintiffs. These assessments will be blended into the project's overall assessment work, once a comment period has concluded -- meanwhile legal assessments for different vulnerable populations will be initiated.
- The Component also requested certain redrafting of staff TORs in order to effectively provide skill sets needed for expected outputs. Associated recruitment efforts were pursued accordingly

GRANTS

- Interviewed and selected candidate for the NGO Coordinator position. Request has already been sent to LBG for hiring process.
- Sent a draft of Rapid Grant rollout strategy for Technical staff to contribute to.
- Started working on RFAs for data management system and Grant Rollout.

Program Support Unit

- On January 16, 2011, the Project Implementation Plan was submitted to USAID for review and approval.
- Approval for Sermid Al-Sarraf to provide technical lead on Law Schools Needs Assessment was received on January 14, 2011; the request for Richard Langan to complement the work of Sermid Al-Sarraf was formally retracted on January 21.
- On January 22, 2011, Access to Justice finalized the preliminary report on assessing the needs of vulnerable groups. Report analyses the needs of vulnerable populations as how civil society organization are perceiving it and makes remarks on sustainability of interviewed NGOs on running programs and grants to assist vulnerable people. The team also developed a scores based form to select NGOs for future programming based on their performance, sustainability and resources. Made comments on Work plan draft.
- On January 16, 2011 Access to Justice met with Mr. Firas Laik, Head of Human Rights Defenders Organization, based in Baghdad. The legal clinic runs a prevention program on gender based violence providing legal, medical and social services for women and female detainees in addition to monitoring, documenting and reporting on how judicial institutions are implementing laws and policies as a way to advocate for change. Another project aims to foster cooperation of civil society, law enforcement and judiciary and international organizations to protect Iraqi victims of human trafficking and assist victims (women and children) of trafficking and of prostitution. Through the Juvenile Justice program they provide services in order to prevent abuses and Human Rights violations in prisons by defending juvenile detainees as much as possible. The organization also runs a Street Children Center in Baghdad and Basra providing a child and education friendly environment for working children or victims of abuse. Services are extended to the whole family of the child.
- Rescheduled meeting between with the Minister of Labor & Social Affairs to after January 16, 2011. Protocol Director of the Minister Office requested to inform us about the new appointment meeting later.

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

- Reviewed RFP submissions for ISP/VSAT and printer/copier. Decided on provider for each.
- Final arrival date of Bill Pryor, DCOP/Technical Activities, has been finalized. Expected date of arrival is on January 30 2010.

REGIONAL OFFICES

- **Program Activities** - On January 16, 2011 an internal meeting was held in Hawler Plaza to distribute tasks requested from Baghdad Team. Tasks are as follow: (i) (Araz Ahmad) the legal advisor will be visiting and coordinating with the MOI key person to collect Data on registered NGOs operating in KRG area in order to work on the next step, communicating and working with the NGOs. (ii) NGO specialist (Zhiyan Hassan) coordinate with NGOs to collect Data on the DRAFT law of Ministry of Culture and Youth of KRG, as well as the LOST TRUTH Book criticizing and attacking the activities and objectives of the feminist movements in KRG area. (iii) Office Manager (Marwan Murad) upon his arrival from Sweden, start working on establishing Erbil Regional Office in coordination with Ms. Tanya Al Jaf, opening Bank Account, Luma Mustafa (Project Assistant) was in Sweden and arrived January 19^h, 2011.
- **Office Administration:** Erbil Office Building: preparations and furniture buying was one the top priorities of Erbil team in coordination and support from Ms. Tanya Al Jaff, office to be furnished approximately within one week; Erbil Team received their laptops, desktops, Sim cards, and telephones on January 19, 2011; Erbil Regional Office Manager opened a TBI Bank account; Ms. Tanya Al Jaf has arrived Erbil January 18^h, 2011. In coordination with the Erbil Team Members (legal advisor, and Office Manager) worked to establish Erbil Regional Office and finalize operational requirements.
- **Ongoing Activities:** The possibility to Visit Mentally disordered and people with special needs organization the coming week is still on, to receive a draft copy of Handicapped and disordered people LAW submitted to the Kurdish Parliament 3 years ago; NGOs Specialist translating documents and data from Julia Pataki;

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

- Meeting on Rule of Law International Policy Committee; US Embassy (January 26)

PENDING ITEMS/ISSUES

- USAID comments on PMP received and being reviewed.
- Work Plan revisions by DCOP being review internally
- Approval from USAID for Assistant Project Officer to provide 30 days of short-term administrative support submitted last January 4, 2011 is still pending.
- Experienced setbacks in obtaining technical concurrence for the following positions: Policy Advocacy Advisor, NGO Coordinators (2), Capacity Building Specialist. Slavica Radosevic requested some changes to be made on the TOR and daily rate among others. We have already communicated the matter to LBG.
- Necessity to hire a part time translator/interpreter at the office. Search continues for a second permanent translator/interpreter
- Grants Manual to be reviewed by USAID at the end of January 2011.
- USAID direction as to the process of concluding the Local and Expatriate Staffing and Compensation Plans, which were sent on December 5, 2010, is still pending.

- Still receiving applications for the following national staff positions (that were also published in Al-Sabah newspaper on December 23): Administrative Officer, Procurement Officer, Professional Development Advisor, Legal Education Advisor and Law Faculty Coordinators (three positions).
- A list of pending items/issues due from Sallyport was sent on January 6, 2011. The list covers issues on the delays of completing the work with regards to facilities (e.g. conference rooms), facilities improvements (e.g. DFAC-related, bathroom renovations), and personnel accommodation among others. This item is still on-going.
- Extension for 60 days was received from MOI following the concern raised last January 5, 2011 by Sallyport to Access to Justice team over the non-issuance of MOI stickers for PSD vehicles; which can potentially impact their (Sallyport) ability to provide transport security for Access to Justice team.
- Approval for the position of Comptroller was sent to USAID last January 13, 2010, pending approval.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
January 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stocktaking Meeting with Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft to HO : (a) 1st Quarterly Report, (b) 1st Quarter PMP, (c) Assessment : Legal Assistance Needs of Vulnerable Populations, Draft to COP : (a) Manual : Framework for Targeting Access to Justice Grants ; (b) Initial Grant Roll-out – Rapid Grants Effective Report Writing 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting w LaChelle Amos, 4points Meeting on Rule of Law International Policy Committee; US Embassy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft to HO: (a) Manual : Framework for Targeting Access to Justice Program Grants ; (b) Initial Grant Rollout – Rapid Grands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft to COP : Initial Grant Rollout - RFA
29	30	31	February 1	2	3	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Quarterly Report to USAID 1st Quarter PMP to USAID Bill Pryor's tentative arrival 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment: legal Assistance Needs of Vulnerable Populations to USAID Initial Grant Rollouts – Rapid Grants to USAID 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julia Pataki takes her RRB 		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGO Sustainable Conference (5 days) Dan Deja takes his RRB 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julia Pataki returns from her RRB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Grants Rollout RFA to USAID
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dan Deja returns from RRB 				

