



USAID | **IRAQ**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #9

JANUARY 8 – JANUARY 14, 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

- Visit to Erbil (January 8-10 2011)
- Received and reviewed the Legal Assistance Needs of Vulnerable Population Assessments provided by NGOs
- Confirmed arrival dates of Component 2 Lead (Rima Das Pradhan-Blach) and DCOP of Technical Activities (Bill Pryor)
- Preparation of study regarding women and children's rights
- Received and reviewed RFP Submissions for ISP/VPAT and printer/copier

VISIT TO ERBIL:

Access to Justice team were in Erbil on January 8 to 10, 2011, and conducted the following activities:

Met with the Director, Ms Ramziya Zana, and Public Relations Officer, Ms. Bushra Mezhr al-Ghany, of the Gender Studies and Information Center. The Center's main objective is to promote gender equality that meets international standards of Human Rights and liberties, raise public awareness of women's rights, and encourage women's role in peace-building in the Kurdish community. During the discussion, the women identified the main obstacles Kurdish women face in society and possible remedies to strengthen the positive role women can play in building a true democratic inclusive society. Further contact and discussions needed.

Visited Access to Justice's Erbil regional office staff and discussed organizational needs and protocols of communication.

Invited by the Kurdistan USAID Regional Reconstruction Team Representatives in Erbil, Mr. Lloyd Mendes, to present the Access to Justice Program as well as to coordinate with the RoL projects in KRG. Ms. Marti Troy, Senior RoL Advisor, RRT and Mr. Michael T. Mahoney, Resident Legal Advisor/US Department of Justice provided useful information about RoL programs in the Kurdish region. The RRT team has provided Access to Justice the legal framework on vulnerable groups and information (including statistical) related to women, minorities and youth.

Access to Justice Program was presented at a meeting with the Manager of the NGO Department at the Ministry of Interior/KRG. The department has an important role in assessing the registered NGOs activities

according to their bylaws, grants, and the perception of society on the organization. Mr. Khalil Abbas Nader showed great interest in our program and assured us on his cooperation in reaching out to NGOs in the Kurdish Region.

Dr. Vivan Sleman Haci Besar from the Kurdish Women Union described the situation of women in the Kurdish region as legally satisfactory as there is a political will to strengthen women's status in society. That is reflected by the amendments on basic laws focusing on women's rights on the many legislative proposals on roll of government or parliament at this time. She noted that women lacked awareness of their legal rights and the Kurdish community lacked knowledge of women's needs. She also stated that process of changing the mentality of Kurdish society with regards to gender equality would be an obstacle.

Ms Naska Rasool lawyer and Board member of Hazhen Organization on Youth and Women Training, a legal clinic mostly focusing on women and children's rights (including detainees) addressed issues faced by the community. These include domestic violence, lack of knowledge and sensibility on women's rights, and lack of education of children and young girls on their rights as citizens as stated in the constitution. She pointed out that one of the most important things should be raising awareness of men in society on what are the constitutional rights of women and young girls.

Meetings were concluded with NGOs with the representatives of the Society for Protection of Mentally Disabled people in Kurdistan, part of a five NGO network representing and promoting PWDs rights. Mr. Ramzi Younis Aziz stated that lack of awareness of society, lack of proper facilities and lack of legislation is impeding people with disabilities to integrate properly and live decently in Kurdish society.

COMPONENT I – IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE OF LEGAL REMEDIES

Interviewed two candidates for Component I Lead position. Final candidate selected to be put forward to DPK Home Office.

COMPONENT 2

IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

- Confirmed arrival date for Component 2 Leader (Rima Das Pradhan-Blach) is slated on January 16, 2010.

COMPONENT 3

ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Reviewed Articles in the Iraqi Constitution to identify those regarding minorities (Turkmen, Yazidis, Mandeans, Sabians, Assyrians, and Chaldeans). Listed the challenges faced by each minority group in applying these articles.
- Prepared a study on women's and children's rights with regards to the Constitution, Iraqi laws and international treaties
- Continued to develop a roster of government offices (ministries, agencies, parliament) working on the issue of vulnerable populations.

GRANTS

- Researched and identified potential database system to be used in the overall grants management system. Review for feedback is currently on-going from the Director of Operations side.
- Researched on framework for access to justice programs to be adopted for use in the pilot program.
- Looking at exception to completion and non-competitive small grants, and RFA and APS directives from ADS 303.

Program Support Unit

- Received responses to the Legal Assistance Needs of Vulnerable Population Assessments questionnaire (both on English and Arabic). Translation and review of the questionnaire ongoing.
- Completed the 4 Points required documents related to the employment contract.
- Compiled suggestions on NGO Pilot Project.
- 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.
- Met with the representative of The Iraqi Institute for Development on January 11, 2011 to discuss issues specific for Mosul area. Mr. Ayad M. Salih, director of the institute has drawn a picture on issues vulnerable groups faced in the Kurdish region, particularly women, youth and minorities. Mr. Salih's organization was established in 2003 by youth activists representing all religious and minority communities in the region. Their main focus is on spreading Human Rights in their communities and monitoring abuses of HRs due to military or terrorist activities. Discussions will continue in the near future.

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 29, 2010.

Erbil

- Mohanned from 4points confirmed Erbil office will take approximately between 2-3 weeks to set-up.
- To build the base line on the current situations of Vulnerable groups in Iraq, particularly in the KRG area, representatives of Baghdad Team including (Julia Pataki, Hassan Al Jabary, Muhannad Abdul Hai) in coordination of Erbil Regional Office met with Ministries, and NGOs for Vulnerable Groups
- On January 02, 2011 (Araz Ahmad) the legal advisor for Erbil Regional Office, visited the KRG Ministry of Interior, to meet Minister Office Manager (Mr.Sroosht Abdul Aziz), to discuss the project and submit the project profile.
- On January 03, 2011 the legal advisor visited the Ministry of Planning and met with the NGO coordinators office at the ministry (Mr. Farhad Burhan Qadir) and Mr. Zagroos Fattah (Diwan General Directorate) in an effort to coordinate with their offices.
- On January 04, 2011 visited Ministry of Interior and met (Mr. Khalil Abbas Nadir) NGOs representative in the ministry. A second meeting was scheduled on January 08, 2011.
- January 05, 2011 confirmed meetings with several CSOs and Ms. Julia Pataki (Gender Specialist), and Erbil office NGO Advisor Ms. (Zhian Hassan);
- On January 06, 2011 Meeting with Baghdad Team (Julia Pataki, Antonio Villamor, Hassan Al Jabary, and Muhannad Abdul Hai) to assign Erbil Team scope of work, responsibilities and tasks including enforcement relationships with the KRG and CSOs, also to sketch interview plans with the NGOs.
- On January 11, 2011 the Legal Advisor Araz Ahmed visited Kurdistan Lawyers Syndicate (Mr. Wirya Sady Ahmed) the syndicate president, discussing the possibility to meet with the regional director and discuss the main objectives of the program;
- On January 11, 2011 met with Eric Nigh to explain in more detail the tasks of Erbil Regional Office, process of reporting, communication with Baghdad Office, and the possibility of arranging for a trip in the near future to meet Baghdad Team.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES NEXT WEEK (JANUARY 15 TO 21, 2011)

- Implementation Plan to be submitted January 15, 2011
- Rima Das Pradhan (Component 2 lead) arrives January 16
- Start of PRT NGO Conference (January 16)

PENDING ITEMS/ISSUES

- 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.
- Concern was raised last January 5, 2011 by Sallyport to Access to Justice team over the non-issuance of MOI stickers; which can potentially impact their (Sallyport) ability to provide transport security for Access to Justice team. USAID intervention is requested on this matter.
- Access to Justice Erbil Regional Office is now assigned. However, a list of pending items/issues due from the regional office was discussed with Eric Nigh on January 11, 2011. The list covers issues on the shipping furniture, setting up computers, cables, and hiring a guard, driver, and a cleaner;
- Follow-up on the status of approval for STTA Assessment Leaders was sent to COTR last December 19. Slavica Radosevic will follow-up on this matter with Fatou Camara, USAID Contract Specialist. Dan Deja provided last December 26, 2010 to Slavica Radosevic an updated justification for the need for two consultants for this assessment.
- Approval for the position of Comptroller was sent to USAID last January 13, 2010, pending approval.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- In cooperation with The Legal Advisor, Regional Director, and NGO Advisor the surveying and profiling of law schools in KRG; surveying of all known human rights NGOs in KRG; arranging meetings with KRG Bar Association; producing detailed report on KRG Bar Association (including suggested interventions); and orientating and coordinating with NGO office of Ministry of Planning. Office location is under lease and being furnished and prepared for occupancy;
- Possibility to Visit Mentally disordered and people with special needs organization the coming week, to receive a draft copy of Handicapped and disordered people LAW submitted to the Kurdish Parliament 3 years ago.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
January 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft submission to COP: 1st Quarter PMP and 1st Quarterly Report • Implementation Plan submitted to USAID • 	<p>MLK Birthday (US holiday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of PRT NGO Endurabilitiy Conference (Bill and Julia to attend) • Rima Das Pladhan-Blach confirmed arrival date. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft to COP: Communication Strategy 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule of Law International Community Forum (USAID/Dan) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft to COP: Assessment – Legal Needs of Vulnerable Populations • Draft to HO: Communications Strategy and Performance Monitoring Plan 	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		<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 			Draft to HO: (a) Manual : Framework for Targeting Access to Justice Program Grants ; (b) Initial Grant Rollout – Rapid Grants	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 					
February 5	6	7	8	9	10	11