



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

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

# IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #7

DECEMBER 25 – DECEMBER 31, 2010

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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.**

### GENERAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- On December 28, 2010, the Access to Justice Program team met with Slavica Radosevic at the US Embassy. She told the team that formal comments on the Work Plan will be forthcoming. In the preliminary, she mentioned that she prefers a detailed narrative with all the activities espoused in the Work Plan (including an executive summary). She felt that the narrative for Component 1 was too general and thinks it needs more details on what the activities are under it. Same for Component 2, she wants more detail and better explanation of what assessments are to be done on this component and how it relates to the Component 1 needs assessment. On NGO assistance she thinks Access to Justice should clarify or identify targets for assistance (IDPs, she indicated by way of example, are being provided assistance from many sources so perhaps more focus should be given on other groups).

On Component 3, Slavica Radosevic indicated that USAID is realistic about this component in that they realize that it will come on line more fully in year two and after. She urged us to use our Component 3 resources to assist with the assessment work, particularly the initial needs assessment that we are currently working on. She counseled that the needs assessment should be approached as a whole and not by individual component.

On the Pilot project, she agrees conceptually but cautioned that we may be too ambitious. Access to Justice Team need to identify the group we intend to work with to thoroughly and clearly outline the project. As for the Grants Management, Slavica Radosevic wants more detail on the early number, method of selection and manner of monitoring. These items will be incorporated into the Work Plan (as well as PMP indicators will be incorporated into the Work Plan).

- Access to Justice staff members continued interviewing Iraqi NGOs as part of the needs assessment process of vulnerable groups. On December 26, 2010, they met with Rafadein Women's Coalition that gave Access to Justice team the opportunity to understand more about the situation of Iraqi Women, and how women's rights are promoted on governmental and civil society level. The Women's Coalition is focusing its attention towards increasing participation of women in Iraqi society through economic and political empowerment, monitor and evaluate performance of government on all levels on implementing the principal of gender equality, advocate government to take action against domestic violence, capacity building of women leaders and decision-makers (paying special attention to the education of girls/women on their constitutional rights), contribution to the reconciliation efforts of Iraqi society and many others. Possible cooperation was discussed.

- On December 27, 2010, Access to Justice team met with the following: Ms. Hanaa Edwar, Secretary-General of Iraqi Al-Amal Association, Mr. Falah Al-Yasri, Director of The Civil Center for Studies and Legal Reforms, and Ms. Shatha Naji, representative of Women for Peace Organization. Their focused discussion was aimed at vulnerable women's groups. Representatives present initiated projects on raising legal awareness among women, established several legal clinics as well as family support centers, conducted research and surveys on situation of women in rural communities, offered different services for women victims of domestic violence, established good relationship with several federal and local governmental entities, initiated legal reform related to the rights of vulnerable groups as people with disabilities or victims of domestic violence, conducted successful capacity building trainings for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and human rights activists on implementation of CEDAW into Iraqi legislation, supported several legal reform initiatives as on freedom of expression and information. Further discussion is needed in order to determine the organizational and capacity building as well as substantial educational, legal needs of the NGOs.
- On December 29, 2010, Access to Justice team met with Messrs. Mohannad Ahmed Al-Jubory and Kareem Al-Lami of the Baghdad Legal Defense Center who walked the team through the legal clinic process covering defense of several thousand of detainees throughout the criminal process in Baghdad district in the last three years. While the contract awarded to the center by the US Government covered only male detainee cases, the center extended legal services to women prisoners since last year. The center conducted awareness seminars as well as contributed to the rehabilitation process before the release of detainees from Rusafa prison. Due to lack of funding the center is now closed.
- Through the courtesy of Slavica Radosevic, Access to Justice team met with Zainab Ahmed Hassoon, from Karbala who is the Director of; Women for Justice Organization (WFJ). The group is currently funded by the PRT. The organization assists poor women in urban and rural areas with legal advice, legal representation in courts in criminal and civil matters. They also provide humanitarian assistance for those who cannot afford medical care or have no living expenses. Both the Access to Justice team and the Women for Justice Organization discussed some of the major concerns women face in Iraqi society as poverty, lack of proper education or domestic violence. Discussions will continue in the future.
- 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.
- USAID circulated the work plan to the PRTs and asked for their input. Input was received from two PRTs thus far. The PMP is still being reviewed by USAID.

## **COMPONENT I**

- Interviews were conducted to find suitable replacement for Ms. Dianne Post. Potential candidate to be put forward to USAID has been identified subject to satisfactory result of the candidate's background check.

## COMPONENT 2

# IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

- Tentative arrival date for Component 2 Leader is slated on January 15, 2010.

## COMPONENT 3

# ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

On December 26, 2010, offered back up plan for needs assessment via local tendering. Discussed with outside experts idea of Inter-Ministerial Committee for Vulnerable Populations with government and non-government personnel, and especially the need for potential "champions" of interests of vulnerable populations in various areas of government. Worked on hiring of pending legal staff through Iraqi contacts and internally. Worked on strategic framework for Component 3. Worked on initial aspect of legal portion of needs assessment, as directed by Slavica/COP.

# GRANTS

- The Grants Manual was submitted to Kamal Ayub, USAID Contracting Officer, on December 31, 2010 for approval.
- Continued researching/identifying file and database systems to be adopted in the overall grants management system.
- Conducted interviews for NGO Coordinator.

## Program Administration/Operations and Program Support Unit:

- Technical concurrence, which is still pending, was sent on December 28, 2010, to Slavica Radosevic for the following positions: Policy Advocacy Advisor (Ms. Israa Abdulhaleem Al Omar), NGO Coordinator (Messrs. Hussam Ali Ghaleb and Husam Aldin Hasan Fadhil), Capacity Building Advisor (Mr. Murtadha Abdul Hamza Jabr).
- Office desktops (total of eight) were received on December 27, 2010.
- Still receiving applications for the following national staff positions (that was 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).
- Interviewed applicants for the positions of Administrative Officer, Procurement Officer and Interpreter
- RFP for VSAT was published on December 23, 2010 at Al-Sabah newspaper. Closing date for bid submission is slated on January 2, 2011.
- Multi-entry visa for three expatriate staff members of Access to Justice Program were obtained through the courtesy of LBG.
- 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.
- Final arrival date of Bill Pryor, DCOP/Technical Activities, is still being finalized (waiting to hear from LBG final date). Expected date of arrival is on January 24, 2010.
- Conference room is still under construction. Original completion date was December 31. All training and other activities planned for January for the conference room will have to be scheduled in other venues.

### ERBIL

4Points begun contracting for offices and personnel while compliance and legal issues still need to be hurdled and addressed by DPK Consulting Home Office and USAID COTR

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES NEXT WEEK (JANUARY 01 TO 07, 2011)

- ISP/Network Provider tender opening (January 2)
- Code of Business Conduct Training (January 3)
- USAID visit to Al-Mansour Compound (January 5)
- Draft Implementation Plan for submission to Home Office (January 6)
- Various job application interviews to be conducted



## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>January 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>NEW YEARS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR Meeting (Julia)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISP Proposal Evaluation</li> <li>• Code of Business Conduct Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistant Project Officer Kim Washington Returns from US</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USAID visit to Al-Mansour compound</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Implementation Plan submitted to HO</li> </ul>	
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aleksander Kovacevic tentative arrival date.</li> </ul>					
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft submission to COP: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter PMP and 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Report</li> <li>• Implementation Plan submitted to USAID</li> <li>• Rima Das Pladhan-Blach tentative arrival date.</li> </ul>	<b>MLK Birthday (US holiday)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft to COP: Communication Strategy</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rule of Law International Community Forum (USAID/Dan)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft to COP: Assessment – Legal Needs of Vulnerable Populations</li> <li>• Draft to HO: Communications Strategy and Performance Monitoring Plan</li> </ul>	
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft to HO : (a) 1st Quarterly Report, (b) 1st Quarter PMP, (c) Assessment : Legal Assistance Needs of Vulnerable Populations,</li> <li>• Draft to COP : (a) Manual :</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft to HO: (a) Manual : Framework for Targeting Access to Justice Program Grants ; (b) Initial Grant Rollout – Rapid Grants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft to COP : Initial Grant Rollout - RFA</li> </ul>

		Framework for Targeting Access to Justice Grants ; (b) Initial Grant Roll-out – Rapid Grants				
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