



USAID | **IRAQ**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #6

DECEMBER 18 – DECEMBER 24, 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.

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 23, 2010, Slavica Radosevic, COTR, visited the new office and residence building at Al-Mansour compound. She met with all the staff members and expressed her satisfaction. She also looks forward to see additional improvements in the staff-size on her next visit (date is still to be arranged).
- Access to Justice staff members continued interviewing Iraqi NGOs as part of the needs assessment process of vulnerable groups. On December 20, 2010 they met representatives of Al-Rahman Institute for Autistic People/Children (a member of the Alliance for Alliance of Disability Organizations). They learned the difficult situations of mentally disabled children, in particular autistic children are facing in Iraq (due to lack of legal framework and political interest of the Iraqi Government). They also met with the Development and Training Widows Center (whose head of the organization co-incidentally happens to be the Advisor of President Talibai on women's issues) and enhanced their knowledge of the issues related to widows and orphans in Iraq. Lack of skills, education, awareness of their rights and the existing services they are entitled to, including financial support, are only some of the main challenges faced by women and children, in particular widows and orphans, are encountering presently in Iraq. The organization covers wide range of activities concentrating on empowering women socially and economically; however, more discussion is needed to identify concrete measures to improve women's life in Iraq.
- Access to Justice also met the Kofan Organization for Human Rights & Democracy on December 20, 2010. This group is the focal point of a network of NGOs monitoring and evaluating implementation of human rights for vulnerable groups such as IDPs, refugees and juvenile detainees, victims of war and violence, taking an interest in the "transitional justice" process (reconciliation efforts). The network has experience and expertise in training governmental institutions and civil society organizations in human rights, monitoring and reporting on human rights abuses in prisons/detention centers or obstacles IDPs are confronted in claiming their rights. It agreed on continuing the dialog in order to map up all possible issues related to vulnerable populations in Iraq.
- On December 21, 2010, Julia Pataki met with the Senior Gender Advisor to UN in Iraq. They discussed situation of Iraqi women in general, women's social and economic empowerment, domestic violence in particular; ongoing development of national strategies related to gender equality in Iraqi Government, projects conducted by Iraqi NGOs in this field as well as potential cooperation of UN agencies and Access to Justice Program on Gender policy.
- 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, while Dan Deja will provide 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.
- On December 20 to 22, 2010, Dan Deja, COP, visited Erbil together with the following staff members from 4Points: Mohannad Abdul Hay, Vice President; Aras Salah Aziz, Project Manager; and Aras Omar Albarwary, Legal Advisor. Proposed office sites were visited and inspected as well as met with 4Points proposed regional staff members: Ahmed Omer Barwary, Legal Advisor; Wuria Muhammad Othman, Office Manager; Zhiyan Sofy Hassan, NGO Advisor.
- COP met with Judge Abdull Rahman H.K. Siuaeely, Director General of Ministry of Justice in Erbil. COP briefed the DG on the project. The DG was very receptive of the project and indicated that the Ministry would do everything possible to ensure the success of the project. In the Kurdish Region, the courts still fall under the Ministry of Justice. COP and 4Points team were originally scheduled to meet the Minister but he fell ill and the DG replaced him. The Minister of Justice is also the acting Minister of Human Rights, which position is currently vacant. The Ministry arranged for pictures to be taken for their internal use.
- COP also met in Erbil with Zagros Fatah, Director General Development Coordination & Cooperation of the Ministry of Planning. The DG met with the Access to Justice representatives and assured that it would get cooperation in our endeavors. DG asked for periodic updates on the project. The team had originally thought that he was responsible for NGOs but he advised that he was only responsible for the registration of International NGOs. He gave us a list of local NGOs which he said was outdated but would provide us with a starting point.



COP meeting with the DG Ministry of Justice



COP Meeting with the DG Ministry of Planning

COMPONENT I

Interviews are on-going for replacement of Ms. Dianne Post. Official notification was made on December 19, 2010 to Kamal Ayub, Contracting Officer, and Slavica Radosevic, COTR, about Ms. Post's decision not to accept the position in Iraq as Component I Leader. Ms. Post, as DPK Consulting had previously informed USAID, had signed a contract and was set to deploy on January 3, 2011. Ms. Post has not provided DPK with any reason for her decision to withdraw from this position. DPK has conveyed its strong disapproval of this decision and certainly at this late point in mobilization.

COMPONENT 2

IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

- Entry visa for Rima das Pradhan-Blach had been obtained last December 15.

COMPONENT 3

ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Joseph Deunay was formally presented to Slavica Radosevic during the latter's visit last December 23, 2010, to Al-Mansour compound.
- Joseph Deunay met with Dr. Faik of LBG-Tijara (also former Deputy Minister of Planning) on December 22, 2010 and provided him a briefing on Access to Justice Project. Dr. Faik had a lot to say about vulnerable populations, why no one is helping them and why they are in such a state (e.g., non-stop war and sanctions and terrorism dating to 1980). Dr. Faik is a big voice in the modern Iraq and has special relations with high-level Americans and also high officials throughout Government of Iraq (recent officials also). He has been called a "national treasure of Iraq." His wife is a former Labor Minister and now a top advisor to the government. Dr. Faik's view was that the strongest results can be achieved through direct government engagement, as the government may not be working at maximum efficiency now and that can be demonstrated, and further since new resources will become available to the government before long and vulnerable populations is a genuine problem for the whole of society.
- Arranged meeting with senior Iraqi lawyer December 21 to discuss project objectives, NGO situation, donor issues, staffing ideas. Follow up later in week to discuss needs assessment and law firm's capabilities regionally,
- Research during week on model laws and relevant conventions on the protection of rights of various vulnerable populations.

GRANTS

- On December 20, 2010, the draft Grants Manual was submitted to the DPK Consulting Home Office for review and comment. Response will be provided by the Home Office on December 27, 2010 before final submission to USAID on December 31, 2010.
- McKinley Posely discussed with Slavica Radosevic the establishment of the grants program website. He also discussed with Hussein Amjad, IT/Network Specialist, the need for the grants management to have its own email account and a website. Hussein Amjad will coordinate this matter through DPK Consulting Home Office.

Program Administration/Operations and Program

Support Unit:

- On December 21, 2010, Dr. Jalal Wahab, Training Specialist, met with the following representatives of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs: Mr. Ibrahim Ni'ma Dibee , Acting DJ of the Directorate of Disabled Welfare; Mr. Azis Khalil, DJ of the Directorate of Social Welfare Network; Mr. Wazeeriya, Manager of the Training Center; and Mr. Sami Ali Husein, Head of Media Department. During the meeting, Access to Justice program was presented, established contacts and gathered information on social services /legal services provided for vulnerable people such as women, widows, children and disabled. Continued discussions in the near future are to be expected.
- Technical concurrence by COTR for the following staff members were received last December 23, 2010: Dr. Jalala Wahab, Training Specialist; Afaf Adnan Salih, Interpreter; and, Hassan Ahmed Fakher, Procurement/Logistic Assistant.
- PO approval for the purchase of 8 Desktops valued at US\$12.6K was received from DPK Home Office last December 24. Expected supplier delivery is on December 31.
- Staff vacancies for the following national staff positions were published in Al-Sabah newspaper on December 23: Administrative Officer, Procurement Officer, Professional Development Advisor, Legal Education Advisor and Law Faculty Coordinators (three positions). The vacancies were also sent out to all members that are on the Access to Justice NGO list; as well as it was sent to USAID COTR for her information and further dissemination.
- RFP for VSAT was published on December 23, 2010 at Al-Sabah newspaper. Closing date for bid submission is slated on January 2, 2011.
- LBG agreed on December 21, 2010 to facilitate the processing for multi-entry visa of Access to Justice expatriate staff members.
- CO approval was obtained on December 20, 2010 for Aleksander Kovasevic, Finance & Administration Manager. It is expected that Mr. Kovasevic will hit the ground on January 9, 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.
- Susan Quinn of USAID Branding Team provided guidance on December 21, 2010 that DPK Consulting business cards may look exactly like their home office business cards. It may not use the USAID logo but can state USAID Contractor/Grantee.
- Final arrival date of Bill Pryor, DCOP/Technical Activities, is still being finalized (waiting to hear from LBG final date).

ERBIL:

Discussions continued with DPK subcontractor 4Points for opening office in Erbil in January 2011. 4Points is ready to open up the field office and position the staff by end of January; however, compliance and legal issues need to be hurdled and addressed by DPK Consulting Home Office and USAID COTR.

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

- NGO Meetings with: Rafadein Women Coalition, Mercy Corps, Al-Samal
- USAID/US Embassy Meeting on December 27 and 30
- Grants Manual draft submission to USAID on December 30

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
CHRISTMAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO Meeting - Rafadein Women Coalition • NGO Meeting – Mercy Corps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO Meeting AI-SAmal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USAID Meeting 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants Manual 1st draft submitted to USAID • Meeting with Women NGO (US Embassy) 	
January 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NEW YEARS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Project Officer Kim Washington Returns from US • ISP Proposal Evaluation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rima Das Pladhan-Blach tentative arrival date. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Implementation Plan submitted to HO 	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aleksander Kovacevic tentative arrival date. 					
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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US holiday (MLK birthday) 	<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/Legal Education at Select Iraqi Law Schools • Draft to HO : Communications Strategy and Performance Monitoring Plan 	