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ALBANIAN JUSTICE SECTOR STRENGTHENING PROJECT (JuST)



QUARTERLY REPORT (July – September 2012)

USAID / ALBANIA, DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE OFFICE

CONTRACT NO. 182-C-00-10-00105-00

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October 10, 2012

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Chemonics International Inc. The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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On the cover: Justice Reporting Fellows discuss the techniques of investigative reporting.

Introduction

Chemonics International is pleased to present its seventh quarterly report describing the activities of the Albanian Justice Sector Strengthening Project (JuST). During the quarter, activities continued at a fast pace, with all components of the project functioning smoothly.

The top position of a key project counterpart, the High Council of Justice, was filled when Elvis Çefa was approved as Deputy Chair.

Taking advantage of the lull in summer activities, much of the quarter was spent in assessing progress to date, and refining the work plan for Year 3.

Work continued on the transformation of courts through the introduction of digital audio recording equipment. By the end of the quarter, equipment had been delivered and installed in seven courts.

The first round of Law School for Journalists was completed, and a select group of graduates was invited to the Justice Reporting Fellows Program for in-depth training on investigative journalism. First steps were taken to establish an investigative reporting center with its own website for reporting hard-hitting, anticorruption pieces.

In a major milestone, amendments to the Law on the Legal Profession were passed by Parliament on September 27. Part of the new law included language drafted by JuST and the National Chamber of Advocates making CLE mandatory, an essential step toward long-term sustainability.

Project efforts to improve legal education within the public law school shifted more to planning than action, given the summer break. At the University of Tirana Law Faculty, the Faculty Council appointed a five member board to implement recommendations made by Professor Geer with the aim of providing more skills-based, practical education for aspiring lawyers. At the end of the quarter, component team leader Roland Gjoni resigned to accept a scholarship to pursue a doctorate in Ireland.

During the quarter, a number of tasks called for in the project work plan were initiated and completed, as outlined below.

Highlights and Deliverables Completed this Quarter

- Additional courts were added to the total receiving digital audio recording equipment and training, bringing the total to seven courts and 29 courtrooms.
- An automated calendar management solution, “PAKS,” using ICMIS scheduling data, was implemented in the Durrës District Court. The program was then configured for use throughout Albania and was successfully deployed in the Korçë District Court. It is providing real-time courtroom management capability to judges.
- Fifteen reporters from throughout Albania were trained through an intensive Justice Reporting Fellows program.
- The grant for the “Law School for Journalists” was successfully completed.

- UAJ’s membership drive is bringing in more members and more revenue. Through distribution of their conference publication and development of their website, their profile is rising.
- A recognition ceremony was held for lawyers completing all courses of the CLE Program.
- The third issue of *Avokatia*, the bar journal of the National Chamber of Advocates, was published and distributed.
- The Donor Coordination Group, initiated and hosted by JuST, continues to meet quarterly and produce a widely-circulated bulletin, *Connections*, on justice sector projects.

Technical Activities by Project Component

JuST works in three strategic areas. First, working with justice sector institutions, it aims to increase court transparency, fairness and efficiency. Second, working with civil society organizations and the media, it seeks to promote accountability from the “grass roots” level by bolstering their watchdog and anticorruption roles. Third, recognizing the importance of well-trained professionals, it is working to strengthen the legal profession and legal education. The project is part of ongoing U.S. support to the rule of law and good governance in Albania, with an emphasis on improving justice delivery and increasing public demand for accountability in the justice sector. The following describes the specific activities initiated or completed during the fourth quarter of the second year of this five year project.

Component One – Increased Court Transparency, Fairness, and Efficiency

The first component of the project addresses court operations through a number of strategies designed to address the lack of transparency and organizational deficiencies which continue to impede the ability of the Albanian judiciary to implement meaningful reform. Intervention results include: a) more accurate trial records; b) more efficiently-run courts that are more open to the public; and c) reduced case backlogs.

JuST is advancing these objectives through direct support to the courts in establishing systems for producing and making available verbatim records of legal proceedings; technical assistance to promote greater use of public courtrooms for the public benefit; better court management practices; and assistance to selected pilot courts to introduce and expand the use of mediation for resolving commercial and family law disputes.

More Accurate Trial Records through Digital Audio Recording

The most visible and perhaps most important initiative of the JuST Project is the implementation of digital audio recording capability for the courts of Albania. At the end of the previous quarter, JuST had installed recording equipment in the Lezha District Court, Korçë District Court, Korçë Appellate Court, and Durrës District Court. During the July – September quarter, three more courts were added: Durrës Appellate Court, Kavaja District Court, and the Serious Crimes Appellate Court, bringing the total number of courts to seven and the number of courtrooms to 29.

Implementation is becoming less challenging with each new court. The “Instruction” issued by the Minister of Justice in June has been a factor frequently cited by judges and court secretaries. With specific guidance from the Ministry of Justice, many issues raised early in

the process are no longer heard. Court secretaries new to the technology are being reassured by their counterparts in courts where audio recording is already operating. The training component of JuST has benefitted from constant practice, and is able to anticipate most questions. The level of acceptance and usage has been extremely high, ranging from 95% to 99% of all sessions being recorded. The JuST team, with technical help from an IT programmer, will soon have an automated report for capturing data on digital audio recording usage. This data will be available in a visual format for display on the newly-inaugurated court portals. All of these factors are contributing to a certain momentum and a level of “peer pressure” intended to transform this aspect of court operations over the next two years. While technology will not solve all the problems of the judiciary, it is a necessary first step toward greater transparency and fairness. Public access to session recordings continues to be a major focus of the project, with the development of procedures and forms to be used in acquiring records of court proceedings.

Improved Court Management Leading to more Transparent and Efficient Court Operations including Court Hearings that are More Open to the Public

An important activity of the project is technical assistance to the Tiranë and Durrës District Courts to increase the utilization of court rooms and reduce the number of cases heard in judges’ chambers that are not accessible to the public. The first step was to document the extent of the problem, which was done early in the project by two experts from the Federal Judicial Center, who designed and carried out a courtroom usage study. The results were not surprising to knowledgeable court observers, but were still astounding in that for the first time, the extent of the problem was quantified.

An experienced court manager from the United States spent six months working in both the Tiranë and Durrës District Courts, suggesting solutions, solving problems, but with only limited success. Although the leaders of both courts showed commitment to better management practices, practical considerations impeded progress. A major breakthrough occurred when real-time courtroom scheduling software was developed by using data already being entered into the two court case management systems in use in the two courts.

For the first time, court secretaries no longer have an excuse not to schedule a hearing in a courtroom. In effect, they now have an online courtroom reservation system which permits them to “see” which courtrooms are available and then “book” them. This has led to a significant expansion in the use of courtrooms, results which are currently being tabulated for dissemination.

During the quarter, this new “module” was demonstrated at the Audio Recording Advisory Board meeting in July. It was then deemed to be worthy of incorporating into ICMIS for use by all courts in Albania. Even in courts meeting the national standard of one courtroom for every two judges, there is still a need to allocate the scarce resource of a courtroom. The “Program for the Management of the Judicial Sessions Calendar” or “PAKS” is such a tool. At the end of the quarter, PAKS was remotely installed on the server in the Korçë District Court, and is in now use.

The next step in the evolution of PAKS is to link the court scheduling data with the audio recording data. This activity was underway as the quarter came to an end, and will be completed early in the next quarter. This will permit real-time monitoring of both courtroom

and audio recording usage – a prerequisite for full implementation. These advances by themselves do not result in well-managed courts. However, they are important building blocks toward a professional approach in court administration, and greater court transparency.

Reduced Case Backlogs through Implementation of Mediation

The JuST Project continues to support the two court-connected mediation programs in Korçë and Durrës. However the priority for the project has been the establishment of a National Chamber of Mediators, as that will be the institution that can address the legal framework and the fee structure – measures that hopefully will make mediation less donor-dependent and more self sustaining.

JuST has played the role of facilitator, regularly hosting meetings of the working group charged by their colleagues with the task of drafting bylaws for the fledgling chamber. During the quarter, twenty (20) additional individuals were licensed, bringing the total to 64. JuST has dedicated space on <http://www.justforumalbania.org/portal.php> where mediators can exchange drafts and commentary on the documents relating to the establishment of the new chamber. As new mediators are licensed, they are introduced to the Forum and given usernames so that they may participate in the ongoing discussions.

As described under Component 2 of this report, two mediation-related grants have been approved – one designed to raise awareness of the existing court-connected mediation programs, and another to establish mediation services in three courts in the Southern region of Albania.

Challenges Ahead for Component One

The biggest challenge facing JuST continues to be the introduction of new technology, simply because technology represents change and change can be threatening. JuST has successfully managed this challenge so far, through a combination of strategies involving awareness raising, selecting early courts based on leadership characteristics of the chief judge, and regular meetings of the Audio Recording Advisory Board, which has been instrumental in assuring buy-in and understanding by justice sector leaders.

The challenge for the coming year will be to ensure continued progress in strengthening the IT infrastructure – necessary for on-line access to audio recordings, and refining procedures for public access.

On the mediation front, challenges identified in previous reports remain – specifically the pressing need to find a sustainability formula. Now that the working group of licensed mediators is close to establishing the Chamber of Mediators, the JuST strategy will be to engage and strengthen the Chamber (possibly through a grant) to develop a legal framework that will provide incentives favoring greater use of mediation.

Component Two – Strengthened Civic Engagement to Help Stem Governmental and Justice Sector Corruption

The second component of JuST is designed to increase the organizational capacity of CSOs, promote stronger, more effective civic participation, increase public awareness of corruption, and bolster the role of media in investigating and reporting corruption cases.

Capacity Development for the Union of Albanian Judges

During the reporting period, the Union of Albanian Judges (UAJ) continued their outreach activities on issues important to the judiciary, such as judicial immunity, judicial inspection procedures and the proposed amendments to the Law on the High Court. These activities have increased their visibility in the media and with the public. The UAJ conference publication was finalized and 500 copies were distributed to all Albanian appellate and district courts, prosecutors' offices, the office of the President, the Ministry of Justice, Parliamentary offices, law faculties and local legal experts.

The wide distribution of this publication served to inform the community of judges in Albania about the UAJ, its role in advancing the interests of judges and the independence of the judiciary. Non-members have been encouraged to collaborate and to join the association. As a result of this membership drive, four new judges joined UAJ from Gjirokastra, Peshkopia, Elbasani and Shkoder district courts.

In addition, during this reporting period the JuST team prepared for the participation of UAJ representatives in the International Association of Judges conference that will be held in Washington, DC from November 10-17, 2012.

Justice and Good Governance CSO Grants Program

An important element of USAID assistance to Albania is the strengthening of civil society as one means of increasing citizen participation and achieving greater transparency and accountability from governmental institutions.

New Grants

During this reporting period the second Annual Program Statement (APS 003) remained open. The JuST program remains committed to encouraging CSOs to submit proposals with a good chance for producing measurable and tangible results. Activities in the previous and current quarter that were designed to maximize the potential number of high-quality, relevant proposals brought an improvement in the quality of the concept notes and full project proposals submitted to the JuST program. In this context two grants were approved by USAID as the quarter came to a close.

Mediation in Durres and Korca: a six-month project aiming to increase the level of awareness in the Judicial District courts of Durres and Korca about how to use mediation services in civil, trade, family, penal, and labor cases. Project target groups include: judges, lawyers, public notaries, other legal professionals, business people, CSOs, and the general public. The newly awarded grant implementer is ANTTARC, a Tirana based NGO. The project will promote awareness in Durres and Korca about opportunities for solving disputes using the existing court-connected mediation centers. It is also designed to increase

the demand for mediation services. The increased awareness and demand are key to ensuring the sustainability of mediation efforts in these cities as direct JuST assistance for the mediation centers is phased out. Having a local CSO conduct the public outreach amplifies the message by leveraging their local connections and relationships. Also, the activity will provide opportunities to identify and develop other local partners for conducting similar activities. The project aims to generate a model for further outreach in other areas of the country as the mediation profession comes into its own through the new Chamber of Mediators.

This grant project will contribute to JuST's goal of greater transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the Albanian justice sector.

Mediation and Restorative Justice in Gjirokastra, Saranda and Permeti: This project, proposed by the "Community Center of Gjirokastra" a local NGO located in Gjirokastra, received USAID approval at the end of the quarter. The proposal aims to encourage mediation services in the courts of Gjirokastra, Saranda and Permeti. The objective of this 12 month project is to promote the use of mediation and restorative justice practices to solve community problems.

Three concept notes have been submitted by local NGOs. The status of their proposals is as follows:

ALTRI, a Tirana based NGO, submitted a project concept note aiming to strengthen and improve collaboration between citizens and the courts of Tirana, Shkoder and Vlora in order to increase efficiency, transparency and to fight corruption. Evaluation panel members concluded that the organization should be invited to submit a detailed project proposal, and feedback on key issues that should be elaborated was provided. The applicant is expected to submit a full project proposal by October 23, 2012.

ALB-AID, a Kukes based NGO, submitted a concept note aiming to raise awareness among legal professionals and the public about the judiciary and corruption, and ways to improve judicial transparency through media involvement. After careful review, the JuST Evaluation Panel concluded that the concept note did not meet the threshold for an invitation to submit a full proposal. Detailed feedback was provided to the NGO, which is free to resubmit a concept note under the current Annual Program Statement.

Free Opinion Forum, a Tirana based organization, submitted a grant proposal to establish an independent media venue based on its gazette called "Gazeta Idea." However, the grant proposal was not of sufficiently high quality to receive project funding. As part of the proposal evaluation process, several other issues including deficiencies in the organization's operational capacity and perceived bias were revealed. As a result, the JuST team is pursuing a different strategy to establish a media venue for investigative reporting.

Previously-Awarded Grants

Grant Coalition: The coalition of three organizations ("Women to Women" from Shkodra, "Women Forum" from Elbasani and "Center for Legal Civic Initiatives" based in Tirana) currently implementing a JuST grant-funded project is making progress on their work plan.

During this period, free legal aid has been provided in 22 cases involving women and girls from Tirana, Shkoder and Elbasan, victims of domestic violence. In addition, the “pro bono” team continues to collect data through monitoring files in four target courts.

AIIS: AIIS successfully completed implementation of the “Law School for Journalists” (LSFJ) training program. Several activities during the quarter closed out this successful grant. On July 9, a ceremony was held to recognize the successful completion of the training. All the journalists were invited together with other media representatives who covered the event. During the ceremony Mr. Albert Rakipi, Executive Director of AIIS and the JuST Chief of Party handed out certificates. Afterwards a lunch buffet was held for the participants. After gathering the papers presented by the lecturers at the training sessions, AIIS prepared a manual entitled: “The Law Academy for Journalists: Collections of Lectures.” Three hundred (300) copies were distributed to the participants’ local and national media outlets, as well as to other media organizations.

Justice Reporting Fellows: Training and Independent Venue for Investigative Journalists

As noted above, during the fourth quarter JuST completed the first round of the LSFJ. A select group of LSFJ graduates (15 out of 21 journalists) were invited to be Justice Reporting Fellows (JRF), and were provided with focused and in-depth trainings on researching and writing about corruption in court system and more broadly. As participants already had experience reporting on justice sector issues, JRF courses provided intermediate and advanced level skill building utilizing the expertise of a seasoned investigative journalist based in the Balkans, John Holland. The JRF training program took place between July 15 and September 30.

Mr. Holland worked closely with JuST staff on the LSFJ, conducted a pre-assessment focus group with the Justice Reporting Fellows, and delivered the hands-on JRF training program. During the pre-assessment meetings, Mr. Holland accompanied reporters to the courthouse, which was useful because it raised serious questions about accessibility issues and helped the trainer to adapt the curriculum to Albanian circumstances. Topics in the training program included: building an investigative reporting venue; investigative reporting for the internet; the art of interviewing; ethics – a guide to getting the story without crossing lines; writing leads and long investigative stories; and others. Participating journalists were pleased to be part of these trainings and were very interested in the idea of establishing their own association along with an online independent web-based media venue.

A draft of the Investigative Journalist Association’s By Laws has been prepared by the journalists, and JuST staff is offering assistance to review and finalize it in accordance with Albanian legislation. Mr. Holland will be providing suggestions and recommendations for future work with journalists and the media venue throughout the coming year.

During September 2012, an IT expert for designing and building the online independent media venue was selected. He will work closely during third year of the program with reporters and John Holland to design and maintain the website.

Challenges Ahead for Component Two

During the quarter, all activities proceeded as planned. The capacity of CSOs to produce quality concept notes and grant proposals remains an ongoing challenge requiring JuST assistance. As the independent journalism center is beginning to take shape, one challenge will be to launch the web venue with enough high-quality investigative pieces to capture the attention of a wide audience, and build momentum for its continuation.

Component Three – Strengthened Legal Profession

The third component of JuST is designed to address the lack of competency and professionalism among practicing attorneys as an element of a larger strategy to combat corruption. A number of activities are envisioned as methods for strengthening the legal profession.

Amendments to the Law on the Legal Profession

For some time, JuST has been actively participating in policy discussions on amendments to the Law on the Legal Profession, and the need for provisions that make CLE mandatory. In July, the JuST team attended a high level roundtable on finalizing language for such a provision. This language was approved in early September and endorsed in the Law Commission of the Parliament later that month. On September 27, the amendments were enacted and will soon take effect. The amendments provide for a one year transitional phase during which the NCA must establish a National School of Advocates and provide initial and continuous training for all licensed lawyers and registered assistants. NCA President Maksim Haxhijaj has requested JuST assistance in conceptualizing and establishing this new institution.

Develop and Implement a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Program

An important strategy designed to increase the professional competence of practicing lawyers is the initiation of a Continuing Legal Education program, or CLE. A common feature among virtually all European countries and the United States, the concept has been late in coming to Albania. During the first year of the project, JuST worked intensively with the National Chamber of Advocates as well as regional chambers to design a curriculum and launch a pilot CLE program. The second year saw the successful implementation of the program in two of the three largest regional chambers – Durrës and Vlorë. A total of 160 training sessions on 12 legal topics reached 322 participants. Subjects included criminal law, criminal procedure, civil law, civil procedure, legal writing and reasoning, ethics, and commercial law. Forty six (46) lawyers attended all courses and were publicly recognized in a ceremony held on July 3, 2012, which was widely covered by the electronic media.

With the successful conclusion of the first year of CLE, discussion with the NCA President began in July on the details for extending the CLE program to a third chamber. Initially the NCA President proposed dropping the program in Vlorë and Durrës, and launching it only for assistants in the Tirana chamber. This idea was rejected by JuST on the grounds that it is inconsistent with project objectives to assist practicing lawyers, rather than shifting focus to

recent law graduates who may or may not pass the bar exam or ever practice law. Moreover, with the enactment of amendments to the Law on the Legal Profession on September 27, the goal now is to expand CLE until it becomes nationwide. JuST will concentrate on adding chambers and building on success.

In September, discussions focused on the 4th and 5th largest regional chambers – Shkodra and Fieri. The JuST team met with the head of the Fieri chamber, Mr. Zenun Hajdarmataj, and discussed options for a training venue since Fieri – unlike Durrës and Vlorë – does not have an office or meeting space. Mr. Hajdarmataj has made arrangements with the President of the District Court to use two courtrooms on Fridays and Saturdays for the purpose of CLE training. JuST and NCA will soon invite our training subcontractor, ACLTS, to submit a technical and financial proposal for the implementation of the second year of CLE. We project approximately 500 lawyers and assistants will be included.

Establish a Bar Journal with the National Chamber of Advocates

USAID support to the National Chamber of Advocates for establishing a bar journal is part of a larger strategy for strengthening the legal profession by raising standards and instilling a sense of pride among practicing attorneys. During the quarter, the third issue of *Avokatia* was published. In July, the editor acquired the ISSN from the International Center of ISSN in Paris. In another step toward strengthening the bar journal, a preliminary version of a website was launched at www.avokatia.al.

Recently the Team Leader drafted a “*Discussion Paper on Bar Journal Sustainability*” summarizing the development and launching of *Avokatia* and identifying further steps required for long-term sustainability. This paper was taken up by the Editorial Board in July prior to the publication of the third issue. Among other things, JuST recommended increasing lawyers’ input through targeted articles from local chambers and law firms, more stringent editorial review, and steps to acquire the status of an academic publication. The strategy appears to be taking hold. The fourth issue will be published in October. The commitment to continue the journal appears strong and the National Chamber of Advocates is planning to assume a larger share of editorial work and costs of production during the project’s third year.

Magistrates School Database

Throughout the quarter, JuST continued its work with the Magistrates School to launch a searchable database of all unified decisions of the Supreme Court. The availability of this information in a user-friendly format is important to ensure that judges, lawyers, and scholars have access to the most current and relevant sources and authorities. A demonstration version of the database portal has now been launched and registered at AKSHI under the domain name www.jurisdocsmagjistratura.edu.al. In August, a five member group of students uploaded the collection of decisions into the database. Further work on the database is underway, and JuST anticipates a formal launching in October 2012 following a final editorial review.

Publication of Magjistrati IV and V

In October 2011, the Director of the Magistrates School called a meeting of the Friends of Magistrates School to discuss the financial constraints of the institution and request assistance from international donors. Following consultations with USAID, JuST agreed to support the

publication of the fourth and fifth editions of student theses. *Magistrati IV* has already been published with JuST support and *Magistrati V* is under preparation and will be launched in October 2012.

Clinical Legal Education Program

During the final quarter, JuST's efforts to establish a clinical legal education program have met with a more responsive leadership at the law school. In June 2012, JuST submitted an action plan to the law faculty, laying out the most critical actions (as identified by Professor Geer) that need to take place in the immediate future to move this activity forward. In September 2012, the Faculty Council appointed a new five member legal clinic board composed of the following professors:

- Alban Koçi, Professor of the Criminal Law Department
- Eniana Qarri, Professor of the Civil Law Department
- Evis Pupe, Professor of the Civil Law Department
- Evis Alimehmeti, Head of Public Law Department
- Besnik Çerekja, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs

In July, JuST developed a Scope of Work for a study tour for professors and newly appointed board members of the legal clinic. The training program has been designed in cooperation with the Foundation of Polish Legal Clinics and will take place from October 14-20. The group of participants consists of three professors (one from each department) who will be teaching the clinical courses in their respective departments, along with two members of the Legal Clinic Board which is charged with academic and administrative oversight of the clinical education program. In August, JuST and the Dean agreed on a set of criteria for the selection of three professors including the position as an internal faculty member; proficiency in English; and possession of the lawyer's license issued by the National Chamber of Advocates. In September, the Faculty Council consisting of 15 full time professors approved the following professors for the training program: Alban Koçi, Professor of the Criminal Law Department, Flutura Kola, Professor of the Civil Law Department, Oriana Muçollari, Professor of the Public Law Department. (Professor Kola subsequently dropped out, due to a scheduling conflict.) The newly formed Legal Clinic Board proposed Evis Alimehmeti and Besnik Çerekja as the two board members to join the study tour. One staff member from the JuST team, Legal Specialist Jonida Dervishi, will accompany the group as the programmatic escort.

National Lawyers' Conference

There has been no movement toward this objective, despite repeated pledges of assistance and concrete suggestions on conference themes. In a meeting in September, the issue was raised one last time, and JuST re-confirmed the absence of any willingness on the part of NCA leadership to convene such a conference. Accordingly, it has been dropped from the Year 3 work plan, and will be included in our anticipated list of proposed contract modifications.

Challenges Ahead for Component Three

Difficult task of implementing a national CLE program

The NCA continues to be a challenging partner. It is both under staffed and under prepared to maintain and expand the momentum generated by the successful CLE pilots in Vlore and Durres as it moves to initiate a third pilot in Fieri. Moreover, the recently enacted amendments to the Law on the Legal Profession envision the establishment of a National School of Advocates, intended to reach all Albanian lawyers, within a year.

UTLF slow progress on Clinical Program

JuST has confronted significant challenges in its efforts to establish a law clinic at UTLF. The previous leadership consistently affirmed its interest in the legal clinic assistance but its weak commitment led to delays in concrete actions. Although JuST will continue to press forward with this activity on a step-by-step basis, USAID will be duly informed should the process stall under the new leadership as well.

Personnel changes

The resignation of the team leader at the end of September presents a challenge to the project in filling the position.

Indicator	Year 1				Year 2			Comments
	Baseline	Target	Achieved	Performance against Targets (%) (Y1)	Target	Actual Achieved (Sept. 2012)	Actual performance against targets (Y2)	
Component 1: Transparency, Fairness and Efficiency								
1.1.1. Number of justice sector personnel in the courts that received USG training	0	100	169	169%	250	360	144%	This Q more personnel were trained through the audio recording usage training, specifically secretaries and judges of Durres Appellate, Kavaja District and Serious Crimes Appellate Court.
1.1.2. Number of legal institutions and associations supported by USG	0	20	49	245%	30	47	156%	This Q one new legal association has received support from JuST through a capacity building program and grant: ANTTARC.
1.1.3. Number of hearings that are verbatim recorded	0	0	N/A	N/A	Not set as of September 2011	3974	N/A	As of September 30, 2012, the following numbers of audio recorded sessions have been held: Lezha District Court (since March 26, 2012) 449 Korça District Court (since July 4, 2012) 2330 Korça Appellate Court (since July 2, 2012) 148 Durrës District Court (since July 9, 2012) 668 Durrresi Appellate Court (since September 10, 2012) 275 Kavaja District Court (since September 24, 2012) 104 (The Serious Crimes Appellate Court started using the DAR system on October 4, 2012, i.e., outside the reporting period.)
1.2.1. Number of hearings that are heard in court rooms	0	Not set as of October 2010	N/A	N/A	Not set as of September 2011	10870	N/A	The Q4 results are from the court calendar management system installed in Tirana and Durres. The result for Tirana is 9802 sessions. The result for Durres is 1068 sessions. The report shows only the number of hearings scheduled. The assumption is that the number

Indicator	Year 1				Year 2			Comments
	Baseline	Target	Achieved	Performance against Targets (%) (Y1)	Target	Actual Achieved (Sept. 2012)	Actual performance against targets (Y2)	
								of hearings scheduled is equal to the number of hearings held.
1.3.1. Number of days from initiation to resolution of mediated cases	21	Not set as of October 2010	12	N/A	Not set as of September 2011	10	N/A	As a result of the training program conducted through AFCR, preparing appropriate procedures to be followed by the courts and mediators, and activities raising public awareness, there has been a decrease in the number of days from initiation to resolution of mediated cases.
1.3.2. Number of mediated cases	14	Not set as of October 2010	23	N/A	Not set as of September 2011	216	N/A	The cumulative result (for Years 1 and 2) is 216. This represents the number of cases from both courts (Durrës and Korça) from the beginning of the subcontract with AFCR. The Q4 results include data only from Durrës. The number of mediated cases in Q4 only in Durrës is 37. The Korça center is expected to report data as of November 1.
1.3.3. Number of mediated cases resolved	13	Not set as of October 2010	13	N/A	Not set as of September 2011	147	N/A	The cumulative result (for Years 1 and 2) is 147. This represents the number of cases from both courts from the beginning of the subcontract with AFCR. The Q4 results include data only from Durrës. The number of mediated cases resolved in Q4 only in Durrës is 31. The Korça center is expected to report data as of November 1.
1.3.4. Number of mediators trained	0	5	10	200%	20	25	125%	As a result of the training program implemented by AFCR 25 mediators have been certified to date. The largest number of certified mediators is from Durrës but some are from Korçë area.

Indicator	Year 1				Year 2			Comments
	Baseline	Target	Achieved	Performance against Targets (%) (Y1)	Target	Actual Achieved (Sept. 2012)	Actual performance against targets (Y2)	
1.3.5. Reduction of time to resolution: mediated cases versus non-mediated cases	Not set as of October 2010	Not set as of October 2010	N/A	N/A	Not set as of September 2011	950%	N/A	The median number of days to resolution for mediated cases is 6 days . The median number of days to resolution for a comparable sample of litigated cases is 57 days . These results are based on data from Dures and Korce District Courts in Q4.

Indicator	FY 2012	Year 1			Year 2			Comments
	Baseline	Target	Achieved	Performance against Targets (%) (Y1)	Targets	Actual Achieved (Sept. 2012)	Actual performance against targets (Y2)	
Component 2: Civic Engagement								
2.1.1 Number of CSOs using USG assistance to improve organizational capacity	0	15	17	113%	20	78	390%	During Year 2, JuST assisted 61 CSOs more than in Year 1 through capacity building programs and regional information sessions on JuST's second Annual Program Statement (APS). Five organizations within this group of CSOs received grants and individual technical assistance regarding their financial management and accounting. The five grantees are: i) Centre for Legal Civic Initiatives Women; ii) Forum of Women, Elbasan; iii) Woman to Woman Association, Shkoder; iv) AIIS, Tirana; and v) ANTTARC Tirana.
2.1.2 Number of USG assisted CSOs that engage in watchdog functions	0	3	0	0%	5	3	60%	During Year 2, the coalition of women's organizations supported through a JuST grant has engaged in watchdog functions. These organizations are monitoring court hearings in the District Courts of Tirana, Shkoder, Elbasan and Vlora, about family court issues, domestic violence issues, conflicts at work, and discrimination such as gender, age, etc
2.1.3 Number of advocacy campaigns	0	3	0	0%	5	0	0%	During Year 2 no advocacy campaigns were carried out by any JuST-assisted CSOs. However, at the end of Year 2 two grants were approved that will implement mediation advocacy and awareness raising

Indicator	FY 2012	Year 1			Year 2			Comments
	Baseline	Target	Achieved	Performance against Targets (%) (Y1)	Targets	Actual Achieved (Sept. 2012)	Actual performance against targets (Y2)	
								campaigns. These campaigns will be counted under this indicator.
2.3.1 Number of corruption cases exposed by the media involved in our project	0	1	0	0%	4	0	0%	During Year 2 there were no corruption cases reported in the media by journalists who benefited from project assistance. However, in Year 3 JuST, working with Albanian reporters that the project has trained in investigative journalism techniques, will support the development of a new, independent media venue, where stories written by JuST-trained reporters will be published.
2.3.2 Number of non-state news outlets that report on corruption assisted by USG	0	0	0	N/A	1	0	0%	See note under 2.3.1
2.3.3 Number of articles/investigative reports placed on the non-state news outlets that report on corruption assisted by USG	0	0	0	N/A	10	0	0%	See note under 2.3.1
2.3.4 Number of journalists trained with USG assistance	0	10	0	0%	15	27	180%	During Year 2, JuST trained journalists on reporting corruption through its Law School for Journalists program and its follow up intensive two-week training Justice Reporting Fellows program on investigative reporting strategies, techniques, and skills Trainees came from throughout Albania. Four reporters trained are from the south, particularly from Gjirokastra, one from

Indicator	FY 2012	Year 1			Year 2			
	Baseline	Target	Achieved	Performance against Targets (%) (Y1)	Targets	Actual Achieved (Sept. 2012)	Actual performance against targets (Y2)	Comments
								Shkodra, one from Elbasani and 13 reporters are from Tirana. All are representatives of local and national media including written and audiovisual media. 31% of the reporters trained are female (see list below of Albanian reporters trained).

Indicator	Year 1				Year 2			Comments
	Baseline	Target	Achieved	Performance against Targets (%) (Y1)	Target	Actual Achieved (Sept. 2012)	Actual performance against targets (Y2)	
Component 3: Legal Profession Education								
3.1.1. Number of Bar Journal Issues	0	0	0	N/A	2	3	150%	After successfully laying the groundwork for the Bar Journal's creation in Year1, the first, second, and third issues were printed in Y2 with 2000 copies distributed to local chambers, courts, and prosecution offices throughout Albania.
3.1.2. Number of lawyers that received USG training	0	150	196	131%	250	322	130%	During Year 1, JuST successfully engaged with the NCA to establish CLE programs for two chambers – Durres and Vlore. These courses reached 322 participants, which constitutes over 70% of all lawyers and assistants registered in the two targeted chambers. 46 lawyers attended all courses.
3.1.3. Number of chambers offering training	0	2	2	100%	3	2	66%	Two chambers (see above indicator) currently offer trainings, which increases the involvement of professionals in legal development.
3.2.1. Number of law school students that take part in trial preparation and/or participate in actual cases	0	0	0	N/A	60	0	0%	The establishment of the law clinic has been delayed for many months due to passivity from UTLF leadership. However, new law school leadership has indicated its support for this activity and JuST remains guardedly hopeful of making concrete progress in Year 3.

Indicator	Year 1				Year 2			Comments
	Baseline	Target	Achieved	Performance against Targets (%) (Y1)	Target	Actual Achieved (Sept. 2012)	Actual performance against targets (Y2)	
3.2.2. Number of cases resolved by the legal clinic	0	0	0	N/A	3	0	0%	See above indicator.
3.2.3. Number of people receiving legal assistance at the legal clinic	0	0	0	N/A	20	0	0%	See above indicator.