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برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

QUARTERLY REPORT (Q1 2013)

OCTOBER 1 — DECEMBER 31, 2012

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CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
COMPONENT 1: PUBLIC AWARENESS AND OUTREACH	8
Campaigns to raise public awareness	9
Strengthening our partners' capacities	
Working with government to improve knowledge of rights (Results 1.1.1 and 1.1.5).....	10
Supporting partners' awareness-raising campaigns (Results 1.1.2, 1.2.1 and 1.4.1).....	11
Improving relationships between government, partners and the vulnerable	
Support for the unified citizen complaint system (Result 1.2.3).....	12
COMPONENT 2: LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES	14
Strengthening our partners' capacities	
Experience-sharing and networking for better advocacy (Result 2.1.1).....	15
Training and technical assistance (Results 2.1.2, 2.1.3 and 2.1.4).....	16
Promoting the sustainability of A2J legal clinics	
A2J Legal Clinic Network (Result 2.1.5).....	17
Training the lawyers of today and tomorrow	
Raising awareness among Iraq's lawyers (Results 2.3.1 and 2.3.2).....	18
Lawyer's Handbook (Result 2.3.2).....	18
Legal clinics established in Iraqi law schools (Result 2.4.2).....	18
Jessup Moot Court Competition (Result 2.4.4).....	19
COMPONENT 3: ADVOCACY	20
Strengthening our partners' capacities	
Training on advocacy strategies for CSO partners (Result 3.1.1).....	21
Working with partners and government	
Public advocacy (Result 3.1.2).....	22
Engaging with government on behalf of the vulnerable (Result 3.2.6).....	22

GENDER INTEGRATION	24
GRANTS	25
IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES.....	31
UPCOMING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.....	32
ANNEXES	
Annex A. Financial reports	36
Annex B. Program deliverables and risk analysis.....	39
Annex C. Monitoring and evaluation overview.....	42
BOXES	
Quick Info: Community-based legal clinics.....	16
FIGURES	
Figure 1. A2J grantee activity locations.....	27
OUR IMPACT	
"For the first time, we feel like citizens"	13
Baghdad Law School opens first self-sustaining legal clinic	19
A2J recommendation on affordable housing for PWDs included in COMSEC decision.....	23
TABLES	
Table 1. A2J grantees (Q1 2013).....	28
Table A.1. Budget statement	36
Table A.2. LOE report.....	37
Table A.3. Procurement plan	38
Table B.1. Program deliverables.....	39
Table B.2. Summary of risk analysis.....	41
Table C.1. Performance indicators (FY 2011-13)	42

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

A2J	Access to Justice	SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
AAA	A2J Advanced Advocacy Academy	UN	United Nations
ADS	USAID Automated Directives System	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
BLS	Baghdad Law School	USD	U.S. Dollar
COMSEC	Council of Ministers Secretariat	VAW	Violence against women
CDO	Civil Development Organization	VOP	Voice of Older People
CLE	Continuing Legal Education		
COR	Council of Representatives		
CSO	Civil Society Organization		
FBA	Florida Bar Association		
GIAP	Gender integration action plan		
GOI	Government of Iraq		
IADO	Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organizations		
IBA	Iraqi Bar Association		
IDP	Internally Displaced Person		
IKR	Iraqi Kurdistan Region		
KBA	Kurdistan Bar Association		
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government		
KURDS	Kurdistan Reconstruction and Development Society		
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation		
MODM	Ministry of Displacement and Migration		
MOHR	Ministry of Human Rights		
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding		
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization		
OMB	Office of Management and Budget		
PWD	Persons With Disabilities		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Iraq Access to Justice Program (A2J) is the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) three-year program to improve access to justice for vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Iraq. Included in this group are women, widows, orphans, persons with disabilities, detainees, minorities (both ethnic and religious), the impoverished, and internally displaced persons and returnees. Access to Justice (A2J) incorporates the following three components:

-  **Improve the practical knowledge** of vulnerable and disadvantaged Iraqis of their responsibilities, rights and remedies under Iraqi law;
-  **Increase the competence and availability of legal professionals** and civil society partners who assist vulnerable and disadvantaged Iraqis; and
-  **Advocate for improvements to government processes and procedures** to facilitate the access of vulnerable populations to government services and legal remedies.

This is the Program's third year of implementation, with start-up beginning November 7, 2010. This report covers the first quarter of the third year, October 1 through December 31, 2012. It presents the achievements of A2J and is organized as follows: (a) an executive summary; (b) results achieved according to the Program Performance Results; (c) an overview of grantee activities; (d) a list of upcoming Program activities; and (e) a set of annexes, including a financial report, list of Program deliverables, and an update on monitoring and evaluation.

Approaching assistance to vulnerable populations from a grassroots perspective, Access to Justice awarded 15 grants during the quarter to civil society organization (CSO) partners through a competitive process, totaling \$1,542,171. An additional two grantees were awarded follow-on grants. By the end of the quarter, the Access to Justice Program had 45 active grants totaling \$4,258,750 of obligated funds. The Program builds the capacities of grantees by providing them a variety of training ranging from grant management to organizational development courses. Grantees share lessons learned and form valuable networks, partnerships and links with the Government of Iraq (GOI), with the aim of sustaining the life of the CSOs.

Seventeen new grant-funded projects began, with each project including awareness-raising and information campaigns as part of their core activities. A2J builds connections between civil society and government counterparts through strategic training on awareness campaign implementation. One of the Program's key government partners in this regard is the Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR), which A2J has paired with four CSOs to form a technical co-ordination committee. The committee will steer the design and implementation of four awareness-raising campaigns on the rights of widows and persons with disabilities (PWDs), to be implemented by the CSOs. In conjunction with the Council of Ministers Secretariat (COMSEC), A2J launched its first awareness campaign on the importance of marriage registration. All print and electronic media products were developed with COMSEC collaboration and display their logo.

The Program also seeks to enhance and increase access to justice through the provision of quality legal assistance to vulnerable populations throughout Iraq. This is accomplished by building the capacity of: (a) lawyers to improve the delivery of legal services; and (b) non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to establish effective and professionally managed legal service programs (legal clinics). At the end of the reporting period, the Program was actively supporting 23 legal clinics in 8 provinces.

Through its issue-oriented legal clinic database, A2J recognized the need to focus Program advocacy efforts on a small number of issues that disproportionately affect legal clinic clients. The most frequently cited issues are: (a) obtaining identity documents; (b) marriage registration; and (c) obtaining social security and welfare benefits. The Program held its best practices workshop for new NGO legal clinics to ensure quality legal service delivery that takes a client-centered approach. Reinforcement of lessons learned came through technical assistance during legal clinic site visits conducted by A2J staff. The A2J Legal Clinic Network provides an important platform for lesson-sharing, coordination and alliance-building among the Program's partner NGOs.

Access to Justice's partnership with the Iraqi Bar Association (IBA) continued to grow as human rights law workshops for young lawyers are now required by the IBA as part of its Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program. The IBA continued its practical skills training for lawyers in the form of mock trials for cases commonly seen in NGO legal clinics. The trainings were developed with A2J and were held eight times during the reporting period for 306 young lawyers. The IBA also worked with A2J to develop a Lawyer's Handbook, which provides step-by-step guidance on the most common judicial and administrative procedures undertaken by Program-supported clinics.

Three law schools are implementing the A2J-developed legal clinic curriculum for their fourth-year stu-

dents, which is part of the A2J best practice model for law school legal clinics. A fourth law school will begin implementing the curriculum next quarter. All four schools will receive grants to implement legal clinic activities in the coming academic semester. Ninety-three students received practical skills training in anticipation of competing in the A2J-hosted Iraq national rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. Teams from sixteen law schools are expected to compete; the winner and runners-up will advance to the international rounds in Washington, D.C.

The Quarterly Partners Meeting focused efforts on advocacy training and in promoting cooperation between civil society and government. At the conclusion of the Partners Meeting, A2J launched a comprehensive training program called the Advanced Advocacy Academy (AAA). The Program's five issue-based NGO advocacy groups formed sub-groups through a series of three multi-day workshops and nine strategy sessions. Participants learned new skills and collaborated on the types of activities that would best support their efforts. Individual NGO grantees continue advocating with the executive and legislative branches, and provincial councils, on issues such as an improved social security law and better services for internally displaced persons (IDPs). A grantee newspaper that targets decision makers publishes six to ten articles per month on issues specifically affecting vulnerable groups.

A2J facilitated the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Council of Representatives (COR) Human Rights Committee and USAID, which was signed on October 4, 2012. The MOU aims to better involve civil society in the legislative process by facilitating collaborative efforts between the Committee and CSOs in human rights education, awareness campaigns and workshops that address important issues affecting vulnerable groups. Throughout all Program activities, A2J promotes effective gender integration. The A2J gender integration team is now in place and providing training to A2J staff.

COMPONENT I

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND OUTREACH



15

NEW PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS LAUNCHED THIS QUARTER

534

VULNERABLE IRAQIS SOUGHT LEGAL ADVICE AS A RESULT OF A2J-SPONSORED OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

3,018

PEOPLE ATTENDED A2J-SPONSORED EDUCATION SESSIONS ON THE RIGHTS OF THE VULNERABLE

CAMPAIGNS TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS

Unregistered marriage awareness campaign: The Access to Justice Program (A2J) launched its awareness-raising campaign on unregistered marriage in December 2012. The theme of unregistered marriage was chosen due to the high volume of legal cases brought to NGO legal clinics by women whose marriages are unregistered (see “Experience-sharing and networking for better advocacy,” page 15).

The objective of the campaign is to increase widows', divorcees', young couples' and the general public's knowledge of: (a) the importance of marriage registration; (b) the consequences of unregistered marriage; (c) the process to obtain marriage certificates; and (d) the remedies and entitlements provided by the state under the Personal Status Law. The Council of Ministers Secretariat (COMSEC) is co-sponsoring the campaign; all print and electronic media products were developed with their collaboration and display their logo.

The media campaign is designed to attract target audiences through radio, television and print media in both Arabic and Kurdish. The campaign includes:

- Four radio spots/public service announcements broadcast on popular local radio stations in Arabic (central and southern Iraq) and Kurdish (in northern Iraq);
- 15,000 brochures in Arabic distributed through COMSEC offices and A2J grantees in central and southern Iraq, and 5,000 brochures in Kurdish distributed by A2J grantees in the north;

HIGHLIGHTS

- Program-sponsored campaign on unregistered marriage launched
- 15 new grantees with awareness-raising activities
- E-solution for citizen complaints under development



ABOVE: A2J grantee Civil Development Organization (CDO) conducts an awareness-raising session for women in Kirkuk (October 2012).

- Ten billboards promoting the five steps of marriage registration are displayed in the city centers of Baghdad, Basrah, Erbil, Najaf and Sulaymaniyah; and
- Two radio and TV programs recorded in both Arabic and Kurdish, which will air at the end of December and in January.

Campaign on the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs): This quarter, the Program hired international media company Leonie to implement the second Program-sponsored campaign. The campaign focuses on the rights of PWDs and aims to increase their understanding of and raise the general public's awareness of the rights and services available to this vulnerable group. To develop relevant and targeted messages and materials for the campaign, Leonie will conduct focus group discussions and meet with Program grantees, including the Iraqi Alliance of Disabilities Organization (IADO) and the Kurdistan Re-

construction and Development Society (KURDS), to collect valuable information on the situation and status of PWDs. The campaign will launch in the second quarter of 2013.

STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERS' CAPACITIES

Working with government to improve knowledge of rights (Results 1.1.1 and 1.1.5)

COMSEC: COMSEC recently established a Media and Public Awareness Department to address the fact that many citizens are unable to access the services offered by the Government of Iraq (GOI) due to a lack of information. COMSEC requested that A2J provide technical assistance to build the capacity of their media staff to design communication strategies and implement awareness-raising campaigns. In response to this request, A2J planned a series of six trainings for COMSEC staff in Baghdad and Basrah with assistance from an Iraqi consultant who has substantial experience in conducting communication skills and strategy development trainings. The training will run from February to April 2013.

Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR): To foster ties between the GOI and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Iraq, the Program is supporting partnerships between the MOHR and Program grantees in the implementation of awareness-raising campaigns on the rights of widows and PWDs. During this quarter, A2J, four of its grantees (Al-Zahoor Feminist Organization, Iraqi Al-Mortaqa Foundation for Human Development, Tammuz Organization for Social Development and Um-Alyateem Foundation), and the MOHR formed a technical coordination committee to steer the design and implementation of four awareness-raising campaigns to be implemented by the aforementioned grantees. The MOHR will provide a list of messages to be included in the grantees' campaigns that will be launched in February 2013.



PHOTO: A2J

ABOVE: A billboard produced for the A2J public awareness campaign on marriage registration, is seen on a busy street in the Mansour district of Baghdad.

Supporting partners' awareness-raising campaigns (Results 1.1.2, 1.2.1 and 1.4.1)

Public awareness-raising campaigns: At the heart of A2J's efforts to improve vulnerable Iraqis' access to justice are campaigns undertaken by its grantees to raise public awareness of their rights and entitlements. During the reporting period, 15 grantees undertook targeted awareness-raising campaigns, involving the distribution of a total of 17,256 printed materials and the broadcast of 21 radio spots and 11 televised public service announcements. As part of these campaigns, 116 workshops were held by our grantees. These were attended by a total of 3,018 vulnerable Iraqis (338 men and 2,680 women). Some highlights include:

- **Anhur Foundation for Education and Human Rights** (Dhi Qar) conducted a total of four workshops during the reporting period, which were attended by 211 women. Two of these were held in the Al-Chibayish district, which is situated in vast Hammar Marsh area — an extremely difficult and remote location, whose residents have little or no access to livelihoods and resources. These workshops were attended by 60 women and focused on issues such as unregistered marriages, the negative impact of early marriage, and women's rights (especially those for widows and divorcees) under Iraqi law.
- **Civil Development Organization** (Kirkuk) conducted a total of 30 workshops this quarter, reaching 924 people (48 men, 876 women). Most of CDO's workshops were held in local high schools for girls, where female students were given information on their legal and social rights, with a particular focus on the importance of marriage registration and the problems associated with early marriage.
- **Fatima House Charity for Women** (Baghdad) began their follow-on grant. The organization provides free legal services and raises awareness on the Personal Status Law in one of Baghdad's most dangerous neighborhoods. Seven workshops were held this quarter, reaching a total of 231 women. Despite the delicate security situation in Sadr City, Fatima House's events regularly



PHOTO: ICHRA

ABOVE: A2J partner Iraqi Center for Human Rights Activists (ICHRA) leads an awareness-raising workshop for vulnerable women in Basrah (October 2012).

exceed the targeted participation. The workshops provide information on a range of issues related to violence against women (VAW), such as its psychological impact; the legal remedies available to women; and the shortcomings of the current legal framework in this regard. The workshops also provide an opportunity for participants to learn about the free services provided by Fatima House through their A2J-supported legal clinic.

- **Iraqi Center for Human Rights Activities** (Basrah) conducted three workshops this quarter, reaching a total of 89 vulnerable Iraqis (26 men, 63 women). One of these workshops was held in the Al-Zubair district of Basrah, and was focused exclusively on raising the awareness of men about the consequences of VAW. During the workshop, 26 men from Bedouin tribes learned about the lasting negative impacts of VAW. By the end of the workshop, the men agreed that all types of VAW are acts of cowardice and cruelty, and that women should enjoy lives of dignity with access to all basic human rights.

New campaigns: By the end of the reporting period, 15 new grants were awarded. Each of these includes awareness-raising and information campaigns as part of the core activities. For instance, Al-Zuhoor Feminist Organization (Baghdad) is conducting a perception survey on the legal status of widows in the Baghdad area, which will be followed by 64 legal information sessions. The sessions will provide an opportunity to share the findings of the survey and, accordingly, to provide information on widows' rights and the tools available to help them access those rights.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E): Access to Justice is working to enhance its partners' ability to monitor and evaluate their awareness-raising campaigns, a skill that will help them better measure the progress and impact of their activities. The Program's M&E expert developed a training module to assist grantees, which is currently being finalized and tested in advance of its January 2013 roll out.

IMPROVING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, PARTNERS AND THE VULNERABLE

Support for the unified citizen complaint system (Result 1.2.3)

Access to Justice and the USAID-funded Tarabot Program conducted a detailed needs assessment for COMSEC's online citizen complaint system. Tarabot's IT team recommended several options, such as purchasing an out-of-the-box solution rather than creating a new system. Their research also highlighted the fact that, in the region, Dubai has a comprehensive online citizen complaint system (*eComplain*). Tarabot and A2J have asked the Department of Dubai eGovernment to help COMSEC's IT team study the Dubai *eComplain* system so that it might be replicated in whole or in part by COMSEC's Citizen's Affairs Department. All options have been submitted to COMSEC for review, and further action on the system is pending the Secretariat's approval.



PHOTO: ICHRA

ABOVE: A2J grantee ICHRA holds an awareness-raising workshop for women in Basrah (October 2012).

OUR IMPACT

"For the first time, we feel like citizens"

The following story from partner Voice of Older People was named best Success Story at the Access to Justice Quarterly Partners Meeting in Erbil (November 2012). The names have been changed to ensure the privacy of the beneficiary.

Karzan is 57 years old and lives in a residential complex in Mahate. Very poor and uneducated, he has been married ten years with a fellow Yazidi, but their marriage was never legally registered in court. Their lack of an official marriage certificate was an inconvenience when dealing with local bureaucracy. It was not until their eight-year-old daughter was old enough to attend school that they realized the consequences of having been married outside of the court.

THE KNOCK-ON EFFECTS

In Iraq, as in many countries, legal documentation for children cannot be established if the parents do not have documents themselves. Therefore, Karzan's daughter was ineligible for the national identity document and any other supporting documentation — all of which is necessary for school enrollment. Karzan feared that without a proper education, his daughter would never be able to escape the poverty into which she was born.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Karzan heard about the activities of Access to Justice partner Voice of Older People (VOP) and decided to attend a public awareness session to tell his story and find a solution to his problem. The VOP legal advisor explained the steps that would need to be taken in order to register Karzan's marriage and apply for identity documents for his family.

Unfortunately, the process usually takes several months to complete and as a result Karzan's daughter risked missing the enrollment cut-off for school. VOP got in touch with the Director of Education and was able to convince him to allow the child enroll on the condition that her identity documents would be provided as soon as possible.

Only 25 days later, the legal clinic successfully concluded Karzan's case and was able to honor the promise they had made to the Director of Education. The direct impact on the family was clear, according to Karzan: "For the first time, my family and I officially feel like citizens and do not have to worry about dealing with the government. Thank you for your efforts to help us and our region!" ■

COMPONENT 2

LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES



1,598

VULNERABLE IRAQIS RECEIVED LEGAL AID FROM A2J-SPONSORED PROGRAMS THIS QUARTER

785

LAW STUDENTS TRAINED USING A2J-DEVELOPED CURRICULUM

422

LEGAL CASES REPRESENTED BY A2J LEGAL CLINICS COMPLETED WITH FAVORABLE OUTCOME



STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERS' CAPACITIES

Experience-sharing and networking for better advocacy (Result 2.1.1)

During the quarter, the Program developed a database to track the most common issues addressed by partner legal clinics. The purpose of the database is to help the program continue to refine and tailor activities based on the actual issues faced by Iraq's vulnerable populations. The Program team regularly updates the database based on information received during site visits. To provide even more detail, the data is disaggregated not only by the issue, but also by the target beneficiary group and the type of legal service requested.

The information contained in this database provides strong evidence for the need to focus Program efforts on a small number of issues that disproportionately affect clients. The most frequently cited issues — across all target groups — are: (1) obtaining identity documents; (2) marriage registration; and (3) obtaining social security and welfare benefits.

Using this database, A2J worked in collaboration with its legal clinics to plan advocacy campaigns on these issues. The campaigns take advantage of various communications channels (e.g. print media, radio) to inform the public of the problems faced by vulnerable groups and to promote specific policy changes that would improve their situation. During the reporting period, the following grantees used information from the database to develop targeted messages for their advocacy campaigns (for more information, refer to the "Advocacy" chapter of this report):

- **Fatima House** will conduct an advocacy campaign on ways to improve the personal status law to better serve Iraq's vulnerable women, including widows and divorcees;

HIGHLIGHTS

- Capacities of legal clinic NGOs strengthened through targeted technical assistance
- Continuing legal education on human rights required for Iraqi lawyers
- Legal clinics in law schools

ABOVE: Lawyers participate in the Iraqi Bar Association's Continuing Legal Education program on human rights, which was developed with A2J support.

- **IADO** will continue to advocate on behalf of Iraq's PWDs to seek changes to the Law on Disabilities; and
- **Um-Alyateem Foundation** will conduct an advocacy campaign related to the Social Security Law and its impact on welfare benefits for widows.

Training and technical assistance (Results 2.1.2, 2.1.3 and 2.1.4)

The Program seeks to enhance and increase access to justice through the provision of quality legal assistance to vulnerable populations throughout Iraq. The provision of quality legal assistance is accomplished by building the capacity of: (a) lawyers to improve the delivery of legal services; and (b) NGOs to establish effectively and professionally managed legal service programs (legal clinics). At the end of the reporting period, the Program was actively supporting 23 legal clinics in 8 provinces, which, all told, have provided

legal services to over 1,598 vulnerable Iraqis. During the quarter, Program technical staff completed 27 site visits to A2J-supported legal clinics. A2J technical assistance during site visits and trainings helped legal clinics improve their organizational and legal service provision capacities. The team provided tailored mentoring and technical assistance based on the Program's community-based NGO legal clinic model. Training on practical issues such as effective archiving and documentation was complemented by technical assistance on matters such as client confidentiality, case classification and reporting.

Partner NGOs received further capacity development during dedicated training sessions in Basrah and Erbil. Training subjects included legal clinic best practices (Erbil, December 22-25) and strategic planning and management (Basrah). Fifty NGO staff (32 men, 18 women) have been trained under these activities. The training in Erbil focused on developing the capacity of lawyers to effectively interact with and represent clients from vulnerable groups. The issues covered in the

QUICK INFO: COMMUNITY-BASED LEGAL CLINICS

Program-supported community-based legal clinics are free legal service programs run by local non-governmental organizations. This is distinct from the legal clinics that are affiliated with law schools, in which lecture-based learning is complemented by on-the-job experience where students handle real cases under the supervision of a lawyer.

The **A2J model for community-based legal clinics** is designed to improve the ability of partner NGOs to provide quality legal services to the vulnerable. It strengthens the functionality and services of these clinics by: (a) establishing uniform best practices to be applied by all partners providing services through the Program; (b) enhancing access to justice through legal advocacy; and (c) encouraging the delivery of services to a wider group of vulnerable persons, such as criminal detainees.

Our community-based legal clinics provide two types of assistance to Iraq's vulnerable populations:

- **Legal advice and counsel**, including a range of services up to the point of legal representation (e.g. screening a new case, conducting a legal assessment to determine if the client is eligible for legal aid, providing information and advice on legal procedures and rights).
- **Legal representation**, which includes any legal action by the lawyer on behalf of the individual before a government agency (e.g. filing a petition for divorce).

training, which is based on the Program's best practice guidance, include:

- Working with the displaced and victims of torture or sexual or gender-based violence (SGBV);
- Understanding the effects of trauma in order to avoid re-traumatizing clients during interviews;
- Identifying the factors that keep vulnerable individuals from seeking help (e.g. lack of awareness, financial considerations, feelings of shame, fear);
- Overcoming the challenges of working with seemingly uncooperative clients; and
- A number of technical matters related to legal representation, such as research, case preparation, evidence collection, witness preparation and trial procedure.

The aim of the strategic planning and management training held in Basrah was to help the NGOs more effectively manage their activities and develop internal governance capacity. Issues covered during these trainings included organizational structure, administrative procedures, human resources, NGO sustainability, internal regulations and reporting.

PROMOTING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF A2J LEGAL CLINICS

A2J Legal Clinic Network (Result 2.1.5)

The A2J Legal Clinic Network provides a unique platform for lesson-sharing, coordination and alliance-building among the Program's partner NGOs. The Network aims to build the capacity of NGO legal clinic partners and unify their efforts to identify and work toward common goals, such as engagement with GOI and other institutions.

During the Quarterly Partners Meeting (Erbil, November 27-29), the A2J Legal Clinic Network met for the second time. The Network's 11 participating NGOs formed four committees to discuss ways to improve: (1) sustainability and GOI coordination; (2) capacity building; (3) legal service provision; and (4) a case referral system. At the meeting, the committees



PHOTO: A2J/Eberlein

ABOVE: Members of the A2J Legal Clinic Network meet on the margins of the Quarterly Partners Meeting (Erbil, November 2012).

developed a number of concrete priorities to advance their areas of work, the progress against which will be re-evaluated at the Network's next meeting (January 2013).

One of the early results emerging from the Network is the creation of a referral mechanism that improves the legal services provided to clients. The system allows A2J legal clinics to direct clients to the most appropriate partner clinic, as needed (e.g. if an IDP approaches a legal clinic that specializes in PWD issues). This is also often required for cases involving legal intervention in two different jurisdictions, for instance with divorce (when the defendant has moved to a different jurisdiction) or when obtaining identity documents for IDPs (because administrative procedures require action in the client's current and original locations). This marks an important step forward in terms of sustainability.

To further encourage collaboration between A2J partners, the Legal Clinic Network has also agreed on a harmonized set of forms and the creation of a

standardized database to enhance the effectiveness of the referral mechanism. The database includes basic information on the case, such as the name, type of assistance needed, location, etc.

TRAINING THE LAWYERS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW

Raising awareness among Iraq's lawyers (Results 2.3.1 and 2.3.2)

Continuing Legal Education: The Iraqi Bar Association (IBA) now requires human rights training as part of its Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program for lawyers. CLE provides lawyers with an opportunity to augment or refresh their skills in various fields, and is part of an effort to ensure that well-informed attorneys are available to serve their clients. The required course was developed by the IBA with technical assistance by A2J and covers international human rights law, and the rights of women, children and IDPs. The course is required for lawyers to advance from 'A-level' to 'B-level' attorney. .

Mock Trial Training: An interactive mock trial approach, developed by the IBA in collaboration with A2J, has been implemented to train lawyers on issues that affect vulnerable groups. The IBA provides a dedicated hall in Baghdad for the trainings, which are attended by lawyers from A2J partner NGOs. A2J and the IBA completed nine mock trial training programs in Baghdad this quarter (October 23-24, November 5-6, 12 and 29, and December 1, 6 and 11). The program, which was attended by 306 young lawyers (82 women and 224 men), covers pleading and evidence procedures in civil cases, and a mock trial of the personal status issues that have proven important to vulnerable groups (e.g. marriage certificates, paternity, dowry, inheritance and divorce).

Lawyer's Handbook (Result 2.3.2)

This quarter, the IBA worked with A2J to develop a Lawyer's Handbook, which provides step-by-step guidance on the most common procedures undertaken by Project-supported clinics (both those involving

the judicial system and those related to Government offices). The Handbook will serve as a good practice model to encourage the effective legal representation of Iraq's vulnerable. Some of the topics covered by the Handbook include:

- Registering a marriage/divorce
- Obtaining a birth/death certificate
- Establishing paternity
- Filing for state compensation for victims of terrorism
- Registering as an IDP
- Obtaining the four essential government documents (*Jinsiya*, nationality card, residency card, ration card)

At the time of reporting, the Handbook was in the process of being translated from Arabic to English. The Program will provide training to its Legal Clinic Network on the contents of the Handbook beginning in Q2.

Legal clinics established in Iraqi law schools (Result 2.4.2)

Four law schools will receive grants to implement legal clinic activities in the next academic semester. Three of these law schools are already implementing the A2J-developed legal clinic curriculum for their fourth-year students, which is part of the A2J best practice model for law school legal clinics. A fourth school, Dhi Qar, will begin implementing the curriculum next semester. Baghdad Law School is independently implementing a legal clinic and continues to offer the legal clinic course after having received a grant from A2J (see "Our Impact", page 19). The five law schools involved in legal clinic activities are:

- Babil Law School
- Baghdad Law School
- Diyala Law School
- Dhi Qar Law School
- Islamic University College (Najaf) Law School

The 15-week legal clinic course addresses international standards, assistance for vulnerable groups, legal ethics and professional responsibility, and the concept of pro bono work. The proactive implementation of the course by these schools — without A2J funding — speaks to their dedication to curriculum reform efforts. Access to Justice is providing dedicated technical assistance to these schools to ensure effective implementation.

Jessup Moot Court Competition (Result 2.4.4)

The Iraq National Rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition will be held January 6-8 at the Martyr Saad Convention Center in Erbil. The competition fills an important gap in Iraqi legal education by introducing practical training into the educational process. Sixteen Iraqi law schools plan to fully participate: Anbar, Babil, Baghdad, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Dahuk, Fallujah, Islamic University of Najaf, Karbala, Koya, Kufa, Maysan, Qadisiya, Soran, Sulaymaniyah and

Wasit, with 112 students and law professors as competitors and coaches, respectively.

The competition required extensive preparation during the reporting period that included the recruitment of active and retired judges and law professors to serve as judges for the competition. In particular, the participation of two distinguished judges from the Iraq Special Tribunal — Rizgar Mohammed (current member of the Kurdish Regional Government Higher Judicial Council) and Raad Juhi — has been secured. Program staff also provided training on the following topics to 93 students (68 men, 25 women) in two workshops held in Baghdad and Erbil:

- Moot court skills;
- Internet legal research;
- Practical skills; and
- Legal writing.

OUR IMPACT

Baghdad Law School opens first self-sustaining legal clinic

In January 2012, A2J awarded a financial grant to Baghdad Law School (BLS) to support the creation of a legal clinic. The clinic is part of a curriculum developed by Access to Justice for fourth-year law students to provide a much-needed practical training element to the traditionally theoretical education provided by Iraq's institutions of higher learning. Since then, A2J has continued its close working relationship with the law school by providing dedicated technical assistance and capacity building. The clinic has supported 60 cases on behalf of disadvantaged Iraqis and provided more than 300 students (over half of whom are women) with valuable practical legal experience.

By the end of 2012 the School's Dean, Dr. Jamal Ibrahim, announced that BLS has decided to integrate a self-sustaining legal clinic into its organizational structure. BLS will therefore not require outside funding, as the financial future of the clinic has been secured. The clinic, which will be staffed by four pro bono lawyers and two law professors, will continue to benefit from the Program's technical assistance but will now be financially self-sustaining.

15,000

MONTHLY
CIRCULATION OF THE
A2J-SUPPORTED AL-
MEEZAN NEWSPAPER

4

CSO ADVOCACY
CAMPAIGNS
SUPPORTED BY A2J

17

TRAINING SESSIONS
HELD THROUGH
THE A2J ADVANCED
ADVOCACY ACADEMY

STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERS' CAPACITIES

Training on advocacy strategies for CSO partners (Result 3.1.1)

A2J's work to build the advocacy capacities of its partner NGOs continued during the reporting period. The Program's five working groups (Social Security and Widows; Personal Status and Gender-Based Violence; Identity; Disabilities Law; and the consolidated group of grantees in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region/IKR) continued regular meetings to agree on coordinated advocacy agendas. In the lead up to the Quarterly Partners Meeting (Erbil, November 2012), A2J conducted strategy sessions with these groups to further refine their approach and better organize their respective advocacy efforts.

At the conclusion of the Partners Meeting, A2J launched a comprehensive training program called the **Advanced Advocacy Academy** (AAA). The Academy was structured in response to grantee input from the Partners Meeting, during which the five working groups agreed on the need to form action-oriented Academy sub-groups to build their capacities through "learning-by-doing" activities. For example, A2J tailored specific training modules on the mapping of power networks, leverage-building and strategic communication, which were conducted in parallel to the organization of an advocacy effort led by Program grantees.

Through a series of three multi-day workshops and nine strategy sessions, participants learned new skills and collaborated on the types of activities that would best support their efforts (e.g. research, organization, media outreach). Results show that participants are applying their new skills to target achievable steps in their respective subject areas, such as:

HIGHLIGHTS

- Five NGO Advocacy Groups create sub-groups in Advocacy Academy
- *Al-Meezan* Newspaper's role as an advocacy tool grows
- Basrah and Mosul Provincial Councils coordinate with A2J on issues affecting IDPs and PWDs.



ABOVE: Ahmed al-Jaderi (R) of the Interior Ministry listens to the outcomes of advocacy working group discussions at the Quarterly Partners Meeting (Erbil, November 2012).

- Procedural reform for the registration of deceased or 'missing' husbands;
- Improving services and infrastructure for PWDs; and
- Enforcing the existing Personal Status Law.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS AND GOVERNMENT

Public advocacy (Result 3.1.2)

The A2J grant expanding the circulation of **Al-Meezan Newspaper** from a single governorate periodical to a monthly publication circulated in 15 governorates has borne fruit in its first months of full-scale operation. *Al-Meezan*, with a well-organized mix of stories on issues relevant for vulnerable groups, practical advice for readers by guest authors such as judges and detailed coverage of legislative developments affecting vulnerable groups, has found a growing audience (now 15,000 nationwide). With distribution centered on courts, parliament and the executive, the newspaper targets decision-makers and those working with them. In addition to its features, editorials, legislative coverage and editorial cartoons about the issues faced by vulnerable groups, *Al-Meezan* publishes six to ten articles monthly on specific issues affecting vulnerable groups. Given the relevance of *Al-Meezan's* content, the publication has also been distributed by other Program grantees to enrich their awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns.

Engaging with government on behalf of the vulnerable (Result 3.2.6)

On October 4, 2012, the U.S. Government, through USAID, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Iraq's Council of Representatives (COR), outlining a partnership to improve access to the Iraqi legal system for vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. The Chairman of the COR Human Rights Committee, Dr. Saleem Abdullah Al-Jabouri, and the USAID/Iraq Mission Director, Thomas H. Staal, signed the MOU. Work under the agreement, which guides the

collaborative efforts of the Human Rights Committee of COR and USAID (through the A2J Program), is continuing. The key provisions of the memorandum are:

- The COR Human Rights Committee and USAID will establish and participate in a working group of NGOs to serve as a platform to discuss the status of vulnerable Iraqis and to develop strategies to improve their condition;
- USAID and the Committee will produce joint awareness campaigns on laws pertaining to the vulnerable; and
- The Committee will follow its strategic plan to work with A2J's partners as a means of involving citizen feedback in the legislative process.

This quarter, A2J grantee **Model Iraqi Women** continued advocating with the executive and legislative branches for a social security law that has a rational relationship between the cost of living that a beneficiary, such as a widow, actually faces and the benefit itself. Model Iraqi Women developed a poster campaign on the topic that was slightly modified to address comments by the Program's Social Security and Widows Advocacy Group — one example of growing NGO coordination on topics of mutual interest.

The Program convened a roundtable discussion on IDPs in Basrah, which was attended by partner NGOs, a representative from the Basrah Provincial Council and immigration officials. The discussion focused on the unique challenges of IDPs in Iraq's southern governorates. By the end of the roundtable, the participants produced a set of six recommendations that were sent to the Provincial Council for action. A2J is following up to ensure that the recommendations are given due consideration. The recommendations include:

- Local councils should allocate land to IDPs living on compounds to help them establish a permanent home;
- New social assistance and legal centers should be established and/or expanded; and
- Executive agencies should modify their systems and instructions to facilitate the Ministry of Dis-

placement and Migration's (MODM) provision of services to IDPs.

A2J also coordinated with the Ninawa Provincial Council, at their request, to hold an education outreach event in Mosul for over 80 NGOs on issues related to IDPs and PWDs. The event was held on December 23, and resulted in a set of 25 actionable recommendations, one of which calls for the formation of an advisory committee of NGOs and government representatives to ensure follow up after the event.

OUR IMPACT

A2J recommendation on affordable housing for PWDs included in COMSEC decision

Capitalizing on its relationship with the Council of Ministers Secretariat (COMSEC), A2J has successfully connected its partners with COMSEC to inform policy decisions regarding persons with disabilities (PWDs). This collaborative effort culminated in the formation of an official Civil Society Steering Committee, chaired by the COMSEC Secretary-General. The committee meets on a regular basis to advise the Council of Ministers on decisions to improve conditions for Iraq's PWDs.

These efforts have led to positive changes. One recommendation emerging from the Committee's discussions pointed to the need for improved access to affordable housing for PWDs. In December, COMSEC issued a decision in-line with Program recommendations by calling for a further reduction in the cost of public housing units for PWDs from 50-75% of the established price.

Last year, COMSEC issued an order that facilitates the importation of disabled-equipped automobiles that effectively reduces the cost of these vehicles for PWDs. A third COMSEC order requires the Ministry of Housing and Construction to dedicate integrated units in all housing projects for PWDs.

GENDER INTEGRATION

ENSURING GENDER INTEGRATION THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM

Gender integration action planning (Results 5.1.1 and 5.2.1)

The A2J gender integration team began work this quarter after an eight-month search for a Gender Integration Specialist. The Specialist conducted a review of each component's gender integration action plan (GIAP), and assessed all gender-related documentation from the first two years of the Program. This documentation has been essential in mapping a realistic vision for better gender integration in the third year of the Program.

Part of this vision includes the need to regularly train each component on basic gender concepts and the relationship between gender and development. The gender integration team will deliver continuous training over the next six months to all A2J staff. Initial gender integration training sessions have commenced and will make use of the following practical, realistic and component-specific examples, which were chosen because they make it easy to identify the challenges, obstacles and possibilities for gender integration in overall Program activities:

- **Public awareness:** Specific training for Component 1 will use the NGO Warvin as an example to discuss ways to better integrate gender into partners' public awareness activities;
- **Legal education and services:** The training for Component 2 will draw on the experiences and lessons learned from the NGO legal clinics to develop and better understand gender integration; and
- **Advocacy:** Two concrete issues — sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and the obstacles faced by widows when accessing justice — were identified as particularly illustrative of (a) opportunities for better gender integration and (b) areas where increased advocacy is needed, and will form the basis of the Component 3 training.

Advising A2J personnel (Result 5.1.3)

Initial weekly meetings with component and grants team leaders were conducted to evaluate the specific training and technical assistance requirements of components. A review of documents from the grants and M&E teams has been completed. Suggested changes include the importance of including sex-disaggregated data and measures to monitor gender-specific experience (i.e. the different impact of A2J work on women and men). Advice was given to include gender integration into the Quarterly Partners Meeting and subsequent teambuilding retreat, as required by USAID's 2012 *Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR BETTER GENDER INTEGRATION

Both specific and general training modalities based on gender integration in development and USAID requirements have been identified and training modules are being compiled. These will be translated into Arabic and Kurdish to be used as a resource for A2J partners during trainings, which will begin next quarter.

GRANTS

QUARTERLY PARTNER PROGRESS REVIEW MEETING

Quarterly partners meetings are designed to discuss progress in Program implementation, lessons learned, issues hindering implementation and provide grantees with an opportunity to learn from each other and to share best practices.

The theme for this quarter's meeting, which was held in Erbil, was "Focus on advocacy: Working together to improve legal services for Iraq's vulnerable." A2J's five advocacy working groups were given priority at the three-day meeting in order to give all participants a chance to offer input and agree on the easiest attainable goals for future A2J advocacy activities. On the second day of the event, selected government officials were invited to hear the groups' recommendations and to comment on a realistic plan of action going forward. CSO partners agreed to take action before the next quarterly meeting by engaging with the A2J Advocacy Academy (see "Advocacy" for further discussion). The event also enjoyed participation from USAID's Baghdad and Erbil offices.

Other event sessions at the meeting — which was attended by over 100 representatives from partner NGOs — focused on the Legal Clinic Network (see "Legal Education & Services"), awareness campaigns in conjunction with government, sustainability and training on M&E, grants management and fraud awareness. Thirteen of A2J's Iraqi staff also attended a dedicated workshop for event facilitators prior to the meeting and acted as session facilitators throughout the event.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Quarterly Partners Meeting held with focus on advocacy
- 15 solicited (competitive) grants awarded this quarter totaling \$1,542,171
- Grants management training given to recently awarded grantees

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PHOTO: A2J/Eberlein

ABOVE: A2J experts conduct capacity building training on fraud awareness during the Quarterly Partners Meeting (Erbil, November 2012).

GRANT AWARDS

At the end of the quarter, the Access to Justice Program had 45 active grants totaling \$4,258,750 of obligated funds. Fifteen solicited (competitive) grants were awarded during the reporting period, totaling \$1,542,171. The Program also completed and closed-out one grant, with an additional five in the final stages of close-out.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR IMPROVED GRANT MANAGEMENT

To improve the capacity of the Program's grants staff, the grants manager continued to provide training on: (a) A2J's performance monitoring plan; (b) work plan intermediate results (IRs); (c) risk assessments; (d) grants manual; (e) OMB Circulars A-110, 122, and 133; and (f) ADS 303. The training familiarizes staff with the tools and frameworks used in grants administration, management of the application process, and assisting CSOs in planning program activities.

A three-day grant management training was held in December for new A2J partners. Some 40 persons, representing 13 partner organizations, participated in the training. The training builds partners' capacity to professionally manage grant activities and focuses on grant activity management, financial management, procurement, human resources, reporting and archiving.

FIGURE I. A2J GRANTEE ACTIVITY LOCATIONS (Q1 2013)



* Denotes grantees with activities throughout Iraq
 † Denotes new grantees whose activities have not yet started

TABLE I. A2J GRANTEES (Q1 2013)

NAME	LOCATION	TARGET BENEFICIARIES	GRANT LIFE	BEGIN DATE	BUDGET	STATUS
1. AL-AAWG DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION	Diyala	Women, Children & Youth, IDPs, Persons with Disabilities	12 months	December 2012	USD 98,152	
2. AL-ARQAM CULTURAL CHARITY ORGANIZATION	Basrah	Women, Children & Youth, IDPs, Persons with Disabilities	12 months	July 2012	USD 99,402	
3. AL-MEAMEEN ORGANIZATION	Basrah	Women, Children & Youth, IDPs, Persons with Disabilities	12 months	July 2012	USD 97,877	
4. AL-MEEZAN NEWSPAPER	Babil**	Women, Children & Youth, IDPs, Persons with Disabilities	12 months	August 2012	USD 99,300	
5. AL-MORTAQA*	Baghdad	Women, Children & Youth, IDPs, Persons with Disabilities	4 months	December 2012	USD 111,822	
6. AL-RAHMA HUMANITY ASSOCIATION*	Baghdad	Women, Children & Youth, IDPs, Persons with Disabilities	12 months	December 2012	USD 126,718	
7. AL-RAWABY	Basrah	Women, Children & Youth, IDPs, Persons with Disabilities	12 months	July 2012	USD 99,532	
8. AL-TAQWA ASSOCIATION	Basrah	Women, Children & Youth, IDPs, Persons with Disabilities	12 months	June 2012	USD 99,899	
9. AL-ZUHOOR FEMINIST ORGANIZATION	Baghdad**	Women, Children & Youth, IDPs, Persons with Disabilities	12 months	November 2012	USD 99,635	
10. AMAL HUMANITARIAN ASSOCIATION AL-BASRYAH	Basrah	Women, Children & Youth, IDPs, Persons with Disabilities	12 months	June 2012	USD 99,342	
11. ANHUR FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS	Dhi Qar	Women, Children & Youth, IDPs, Persons with Disabilities	12 months	November 2012	USD 99,752	
12. ASWAT AL-IRAQ	Baghdad	Women, Children & Youth, IDPs, Persons with Disabilities	6 months	May 2012	USD 82,700	
13. BAGHDAD LAW SCHOOL	Baghdad	Women, Children & Youth, IDPs, Persons with Disabilities	12 months	January 2012	USD 32,999	
14. BAGHDAD WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (BWA)	Baghdad	Women, Children & Youth, IDPs, Persons with Disabilities	6 months	May 2012	USD 65,443	
15. BILADI ORGANIZATION FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT	Dhi Qar	Women, Children & Youth, IDPs, Persons with Disabilities	12 months	November 2012	USD 99,702	
16. BUSTAN ASSOCIATION	Basrah/Maysan	Women, Children & Youth, IDPs, Persons with Disabilities	6 months	June 2012	USD 63,963	

LEGEND


WOMEN



IDPs



UNDER IMPLEMENTATION



COMPLETE



CHILDREN & YOUTH



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



PENDING

* Follow-on grant

** Grantee activities take place throughout Iraq

TABLE I. A2J GRANTEES (Q1 2013)

NAME	LOCATION	TARGET BENEFICIARIES	GRANT LIFE	BEGIN DATE	BUDGET	STATUS
17. CIVIL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (CDO)	Kirkuk		12 months	May 2012	USD 93,050	
18. DHI QAR LAW SCHOOL	Dhi Qar		12 months	-	USD 63,210	
19. DIYAR CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS	Ninawa		9 months	December 2012	USD 99,019	
20. FATIMA HOUSE CHARITY FOR WOMEN*	Baghdad		12 months	November 2012	USD 149,962	
21. HADIA	Basrah		12 months	June 2012	USD 99,682	
22. HARIKAR	Dahuk		12 months	May 2012	USD 99,175	
23. HATAW	Sulaymaniyah		6 months	June 2012	USD 58,746	
24. HIYAD	Basrah		6 months	June 2012	USD 59,802	
25. HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS	Baghdad		12 months	November 2012	USD 99,899	
26. INMA ORGANIZATION	Kirkuk		10 months	November 2012	USD 99,971	
27. IRAQ FUTURE ASSOCIATION	Basrah		12 months	December 2012	USD 99,177	
28. IRAQI ALLIANCE OF DISABILITIES ORGANIZATION (IADO)*	Baghdad		6 months	December 2012	USD 99,529	
29. IRAQI BAR ASSOCIATION (IBA)	Baghdad		12 months	February 2012	USD 98,780	
30. IRAQI CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS (ICHRA)	Basrah		12 months	June 2012	USD 90,000	
31. ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL	Najaf		12 months	-	USD 54,710	
32. KURDISTAN BAR ASSOCIATION	Erbil		11 months	September 2011	USD 86,310	
33. KURDISTAN HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH (KHRW)*	Erbil		5 months	April 2012	USD 97,900	
34. KURDISTAN RECONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (KURDS)	Dahuk		12 months	May 2012	USD 99,464	
35. MERCY HANDS FOR HUMANITARIAN AID*	Baghdad		6 months	September 2012	USD 99,882	

TABLE I. A2J GRANTEES (Q1 2013)

NAME	LOCATION	TARGET BENEFICIARIES	GRANT LIFE	BEGIN DATE	BUDGET	STATUS
36. MODEL IRAQI WOMEN	Baghdad**		6 months	September 2012	USD 98,384	
37. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND	Basrah		12 months	December 2012	USD 99,178	
38. ODESSA ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT	Ninawa		12 months	December 2012	USD 98,662	
39. PORTAL CONTEMPORARY WOMEN ORGANIZATION	Baghdad		7 months	-	USD 79,122	
40. PUBLIC POLICIES FORUM	Baghdad		12 months	-	USD 99,752	
41. SADA CENTER FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	Dhi Qar		12 months	November 2012	USD 99,852	
42. SAYED AL-SHUHUDAA ORGANIZATION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	Basrah		12 months	June 2012	USD 99,502	
43. TAMMUZ ORGANIZATION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	Baghdad**		12 months	November 2012	USD 97,782	
44. THER CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT	Muthanna		12 months	-	USD 98,752	
45. UM-ALYATEEM FOUNDATION	Baghdad**		7 months	November 2012	USD 78,502	
46. UNIVERSITY OF BABYLON LAW SCHOOL	Babil		12 months	-	USD 55,210	
47. UNIVERSITY OF DIYALA LAW SCHOOL	Diyala		12 months	-	USD 55,210	
48. VOICE OF OLDER PEOPLE (VOP)	Dahuk		12 months	May 2012	USD 97,962	
49. WARVIN FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES	Erbil		12 months	May 2012	USD 100,000	
50. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ORGANIZATION (WEO)	Erbil		8 months	September 2011	USD 100,000	
51. WOMEN FOR JUSTICE	Baghdad		8 months	February 2012	USD 69,840	
52. YOUTH SAVE ORGANIZATION	Babil**		9 months	November 2012	USD 66,682	

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

During the reporting period, the official launch of the A2J-supported media campaign to raise awareness among vulnerable Iraqis on the importance of marriage registration was delayed. The Program's government partner, the COMSEC Directorate of Citizens' Affairs and Public Relations, was slow to review draft campaign materials, and their comments required several rounds of revision. Once comments had been received and all changes finalized, the final written approval from COMSEC was not issued for an additional month. These delays were not expected when developing the campaign plan. The campaign was launched in December 2012 and is expected to finish next quarter.

The difficulty of recruiting quality staff has affected the smooth and efficient implementation of the grants program. Staffing problems cause delays and affect morale of the Grants team; necessary documentation is not properly implemented or timely processed. To support the Grants Manager, Tt DPK and LBG mobilized home office support during the quarter; improvement unfortunately was not forthcoming. A new Grants Manager with significant experience and a proven track record in the management of small grants in Iraq was recruited and will assume responsibilities on January 8, 2013.

Grantee payments have been a challenge this last quarter due to significant delays (up to two months) between payment issuance and deposit in grantee bank accounts. The delays have caused a great deal of strain on the grantees' ability to operate at the desired level of activity. The he Program is actively looking for an alternative bank.

UPCOMING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



PUBLIC AWARENESS AND OUTREACH

- Subcontractor will begin work on A2J's awareness-raising campaign for PWDs;
- Finalization and distribution of the Directory of Government Services for vulnerable groups, covering the IKR and the south central region of Iraq. The directory will include a list of legal clinics;
- Needs assessment will be conducted for the development of an online NGO registration system for the KRG's NGO Directorate;
- Finalization of themes and campaign messages for the joint awareness-raising campaign with the COR Human Rights Committee; and
- Workshops on advanced communication skills, writing success stories and understanding the use of images in media campaigns will be conducted for government employees and grantees in Baghdad, Basrah and Erbil. The workshops will help build the capacity of government employees and grantees to better plan, design and implement public awareness campaigns.



LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

- Roll out grants, conduct best practice training and provide ongoing technical assistance and capacity development for four new law school legal clinics (Babil, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Islamic University/Najaf);
- Iraq National Rounds of the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition held in Erbil in January. The winning and first runner-up teams will participate in advocacy skills training prior to traveling to Washington for the Jessup International Rounds at the end of March;
- The Program will bring members of the Florida Bar Association (FBA) to Erbil to launch a partnership between the FBA and the Kurdistan Bar Association (KBA). The partnership will be facilitated by the Rule of Law Office in the U.S. Consulate-General in Erbil. The main purpose of the visit will be to conduct an organizational capacity assessment of: (a) the KBA's ability to implement and track a pro bono legal assistance program; and (b) gaps in the KBA's existing committee structure. A roadmap for future technical assistance and partnership activities will be developed.
- Ongoing capacity development training for NGO grantees and lawyers in human rights and mock trial lawyering skills for cases related to vulnerable groups. The NGO Legal Clinic Network will meet and be trained on effective networking skills.



ADVOCACY AND REFORM

- The Advocacy Academy will conclude. The issue-based working groups will continue work on their government engagement strategies, as defined during the academy, with Program mentoring and support.
- A roundtable will be held to promote the adoption by the KRG Parliament of the proposed KBA revised Law on Lawyers, which requires approximately two pro bono cases on behalf of vulnerable Iraqis per year for all lawyers.
- The report highlighting what changes need to be made by the Government of Iraq in order to comply with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons Disabilities will be distributed to Government and NGO officials. Advocacy efforts led by the Program's Disabilities Working Group to promote the adoption of these recommendations will be mentored and supported by A2J.



GENDER INTEGRATION

- Gender integration training for grantees will begin in Baghdad, Basrah and Erbil. The two-day trainings will include a needs assessment and planning for gender integration sustainability.
- Gender integration training will take place for A2J staff in the Basrah and Erbil Regional Offices and the Grants Department in Baghdad.
- Initial interviews will be conducted for the value chain analysis with widows and organizations that work with widows, in order to assess the primary concerns and challenges facing Iraq's women.

GRANTS

- Quarterly Partners Meeting held the first week of March in either Baghdad or Basrah.

ANNEXES

ANNEX A. Financial Reports.....	36
ANNEX B. Program Deliverables and Risk Analysis.....	39
ANNEX C. Monitoring & Evaluation Overview.....	42

ANNEX A

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Project accrued approximately \$4,360,302 in expenditures during the period October 1 to December 31, 2012. Below is a summary of quarterly expenses and project expenses to date. The total obligated amount is \$34,060,000. As of December 31, 2012, 81% of the obligation has been spent.

TABLE A.1 BUDGET STATEMENT

CLIN	COST ELEMENTS	TOTAL BASE PERIOD BUDGET	EXPENSES CLAIMED, Q1 (OCT 1 — DEC 31, 2012)	TOTAL EXPENSES THROUGH DEC 31, 2012	TOTAL REMAINING
1	Component 1: Improve Knowledge of Legal Remedies	\$1,564,587	\$129,153	\$941,402	\$623,186
2	Component 2: Improve Legal Education	\$4,777,237	\$411,601	\$2,660,683	\$2,116,554
3	Component 3: Improve Government Processes	\$1,038,710	\$88,583	\$628,998	\$409,712
4	Subcontracts	\$20,482,423	\$1,410,360	\$13,111,049	\$7,371,374
5	Participant Training	\$786,346	-\$117,421	\$827,976	-\$41,630
6	Grants	\$6,000,000	\$998,752	\$2,937,260	\$3,062,740
7	Other Direct Costs*	\$2,718,091	\$749,269	\$2,405,675	\$312,416
8	Indirect Costs (Fringe, Overhead, G&A)	\$4,708,830	\$511,174	\$3,118,945	\$1,589,885
9	Total Estimated Cost	\$42,076,224	\$4,181,471	\$26,631,989	\$15,444,236
10	Fixed Fee	\$1,668,381	\$178,831	\$931,320	\$737,061
	Cost-plus-fixed fee	\$43,744,605	\$4,360,302	\$27,563,308	\$16,181,298

* General expenses for equipment and services are included in this line item. Expenses for services provided in relation to a specific program activity are included in the Participant Training CLIN.

LOE REPORT

The project billed approximately 4,001 days of LOE during the period October 1 – December 31, 2012. Below is a summary of the LOE billed during the quarter and LOE billed to date per labor category.

TABLE A.2 LOE REPORT				
LABOR CATEGORY	TOTAL BASE PERIOD LOE	LOE CLAIMED, Q1 (OCT 1 — DEC 31, 2012)	TOTAL LOE THROUGH DEC 31, 2012	TOTAL LOE REMAINING
Long-term Expatriate/ TCNs	6,975	694	4,544	2,431
Short-term Staff	1,493	67	337	1,120
Local Staff—Professional	30,686	2,730	18,320	12,366
Home Office Staff	881	36	654	227
TOTAL	40,035	3,527	23,890	16,145

PROCUREMENT PLAN UPDATE

On January 16, 2011 Tt DPK submitted a Procurement Plan in its Project Implementation Plan showing its plan for purchasing commodities during implementation. Table A.3 provides an update to that procurement plan that includes commodities purchased during the reporting period. As noted in the USAID approved Procurement Plan, the plan only includes purchase of commodities.

TABLE A.3 PROCUREMENT PLAN

ITEM	SPECIFICATIONS*	INTENDED USE	SOURCE	ORIGIN**	QTY	UNIT COST (USD)	TOTAL (USD)
IBM SPSS Software	License for IBM SPSS Statistics Base Authorized User License + SW Subscription & Support 12 Months, Part Number : D0EJ9LL	Software to enable the M&E unit to perform statistical analysis and to collect data more efficiently	USA		2	\$2,320	\$5,034.40 (Price includes required sales tax)
Laptops	Dell, CPU Intel i5 -2.5 GHz 2450m RAM 4G. Monitor 15-inch, Hard drive 320 GB LAN and WLAN 802.11a/b/g/n Windows 7 Genuine	Computers for additional IA2J staff	Iraq		13	\$590.00	\$7,670.00
Printer	Printer Laser Jet HPPI606 (B&W)	Equipment to support the operations of the Erbil regional office	Iraq		1	\$193.00	\$193.00
Digital camera	Nikon Coolpix P510	Equipment to be used in the Erbil regional office to document project activities	Iraq		1	\$467.00	\$467.00
Scanner	Heavy duty scanner Fujitsu Fi6130Z	Equipment to facilitate daily tasks in the grants department	Iraq		1	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00
MS Windows 7	Windows operating system	Software for the IA2J IT department	Iraq		3	\$170.00	\$510.00

OFFICE FURNITURE

No furniture was purchased this quarter.

* The above specifications are based on DPK Consulting solicitation of quotes in December 2010. The purchase of the actual items will depend on availability.

** The Origin of each item is not reported because the Origin concept was removed from 22 CFR 228.

ANNEX B

PROGRAM DELIVERABLES

Program deliverables produced for USAID by the Access to Justice Program are listed in the below table.

TABLE B.1 PROGRAM DELIVERABLES		
DELIVERABLE	DATE SUBMITTED TO USAID	DATE APPROVED BY USAID
Program Mobilization Plan	November 23, 2010	December 1, 2010
Year 1 Work Plan	December 15, 2010	February 28, 2011
Year 1 Revised Work Plan	July 31, 2011	August 4, 2011
Program Implementation Plan	January 16, 2011	October 31, 2011
Performance Monitoring Plan	March 25, 2011	October 30, 2011
Performance Monitoring Plan Revision	June 29, 2012	July 9, 2012
Performance Monitoring Plan Revision	October 6, 2012	October 7, 2012
Grants Manual	April 10, 2011	April 12, 2011
Competitive Grants RFA	August 4, 2011	August 4, 2011
Weekly Reports (108 reports)	Weekly	N/A
Quarter 1 Quarterly Report	January 31, 2011	N/A
Quarter 2 Quarterly Report	April 30, 2011	N/A
Quarter 3 Quarterly Report	July 30, 2011	N/A
Year 1 Annual Report	October 30, 2011	N/A

TABLE B.1 PROGRAM DELIVERABLES

DELIVERABLE	DATE SUBMITTED TO USAID	DATE APPROVED BY USAID
Quarter 5 Quarterly Report	January 30, 2012	N/A
Quarter 6 Quarterly Report	April 30, 2012	N/A
Quarter 7 Quarterly Report	July 26, 2012	N/A
Year 2 Annual Report	November 8, 2012	N/A
Year 2 Work Plan	September 12, 2011	December 29, 2011
Year 2 Work Plan Revision	June 14, 2012	July 8, 2012
Year 3 Work Plan	August 31, 2012	December 11, 2012
Assessment: Legal Assistance Needs of Vulnerable Populations	July 31, 2011	N/A
Assessment: Legal Education at Select Iraqi Law Schools	June 6, 2011	N/A
Community Based Legal Clinic Best Practices Manual	April 8, 2012	N/A
Y2 Baseline Perception Survey Report and Data	December 14, 2012	N/A

TABLE B.2 SUMMARY OF RISK ANALYSIS

RISK ANALYSIS	CATEGORY/ TYPE	ACTION TAKEN TO DATE	ACTION PLANNED FOR NEXT 6 MONTHS	SIGNIFICANCE
Difficulties in recruiting qualified expat and Iraqi staff put a strain on project management resources covering gaps in the absence of technical and operational staff needed to implement the program.	Personnel	Tt DPK and LBG are sending home office staff for significant periods of time to the field to fill in gaps in personnel. Recruitment for positions that are open is being stepped up.	All expat and Iraqi positions will be filled; key positions will have back-ups.	High
Grants administrative processes are cumbersome for grantees to the point of frustrating grantees with the amount of reporting that is required by the Program.	Administrative	M&E forms have been streamlined; grants manual is under review to streamline grant application review processes. Distribution of responsibilities among the grants administrative team members is being redone in a more efficient manner.	Discussions will continue on what further steps can be taken to reduce burden on grantees of administrative reporting without compromising compliance and accountability.	High
Bank delays of up to two months in wired payments to grantees are putting strain on grantee abilities to maintain required pace of implementation.	Administrative	Tt DPK is seeking an alternative to the current banking relationship that the Program has with Dar Al-Salam bank, which was originally chosen for its close affiliation for HSBC..	Tt DPK will open a new bank account at a more reliable bank that can facilitate wire transfer payments to grantees in a timely manner.	High
Relationships with high-level GOI actors of different political affiliations may not be as prone to or supportive in working with USG organizations or implementing partners – new pressure from USAID Mission for branding and marking causes tension.	Political	Given new direction from the USAID Mission, Program is pushing branding and marking of materials wherever possible. This has been met with some resistance where credibility and ownership of GOI is concerned.	Continue to approach high level Iraqi Government officials with caution and do not push issues like branding and marking at the expense of key relationships needed to support program progress	High
Grantees slow in providing M&E data and regular financial and technical reports in a timely and accurate fashion.	Technical	Trainings continue with grantees to better prepare them and orient them to the reporting requirements of the Program. An expat M&E Specialist has been hired and is assisting with capacity building efforts as related to M&E data collection.	Further training and development is still needed, especially for new grantees.	High

ANNEX C

MONITORING & EVALUATION SUMMARY

TABLE C.1 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (FY 2011-13)

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGETS			ACTUAL RESULTS			PTD Result
		FY 11-13	FY 13	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13 Q1		
0.1 % of vulnerable Iraqis who respond that they have adequate access to Iraq's legal system.	N/A	20%	25%	<i>Not Measured</i>	12%	<i>Measured annually</i>		
1 % of vulnerable Iraqis who understand their legal rights, entitlements and remedies.	N/A	30%	30%	<i>Not Measured</i>	22%	<i>Measured annually</i>		
1.1 # of campaigns supported to foster public awareness and respect for rule of law.	0	21	40	0	34	15	49	
1.2.1 # of vulnerable Iraqis seeking legal advice from civil society partners as a result of Program-sponsored awareness or media outreach.	0	3,500	4,500	–	2,065	534	2599	
1.2.2 # of person days of education provided to vulnerable group individuals on legal rights, entitlements and remedies.	0	5,000	10,000	–	9,318	3,018 W: 2,680 M: 338	12,336	
2 # of civil society partners and legal assistance organizations effectively serving the legal needs of vulnerable groups.	N/A	50	30	17	33	38	88	
2.1.1 # of individuals/groups from low income or marginalized communities who received legal aid or victim's assistance with USG support. (F-Indicator)	0	5,000	5,000	–	4,842	1,598 W: 1,261 M: 337	6,440	
2.1.2 # of cases of legal representation to vulnerable Iraqis completed with favorable outcome.	0	200	1,000	–	1,061	422 W: 359 M: 63	1,483	
2.1.3 # of civil society partners, law associations, and law schools assisted with organizational development.	0	200	50	225	631	38	894	
2.2.1 # of programs instituted by law associations and law schools.	0	4	3	0	1	2	3	
2.2.2 # of person days of training provided to lawyers.	0	1,210	2,190	494	1,436	461 W: 82 M: 224	2,391	
2.3.1 # of new legal courses or curricula developed and/or rolled out.	0	1	4	1	1	3	5	
2.3.2 # of person days of training provided to law students.	0	1,000	3,200	–	2,794	570 W: 241 M: 544	3,364	
3 # of changes made by the government to its policies, laws, and regulations.	N/A	–	1	–	4	–	4	
3.1 # of recommendations for reforms made by NGOs, CSOs and stakeholders to government officials.	0	6	8	12	7	2 (6 & 25)	21	
3.2 # of CSO advocacy campaigns supported. (F-Indicator)	0	2	7	2	6	4	12	

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Iraq's vulnerable and disadvantaged populations

are vast and include women in special circumstances, such as widows, orphans, internally displaced people, persons with disabilities, religious and ethnic minorities, and those who lack access to state protections and services due to a lack of formal identity. Ensuring access to justice for these and other vulnerable groups is critical both for the individuals and to support the modernization of government and civil society as Iraq's financial and security environments improve. "Access to justice" describes an end state in which individuals are able to access rights and entitlements equitably through individual action or with the assistance of civil society or the government.

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM