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Palestinian Justice Enhancement Program

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Grantee Student Forum Institute (SFI) conducts a tree planting event with students and police officers in Bethlehem

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PALESTINIAN JUSTICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

YEAR TWO ANNUAL REPORT
1 OCTOBER, 2011 TO 30 SEPTEMBER, 2012

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Acronyms

CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contract Officer Representative
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DJS	Diploma Judicial Studies
EUPOL COPPS	EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
GIAs	Grant Implementation Agreements
HJC	High Judicial Council
ICDL	International Computer Driving License
JIC	Justice Information Center
JLC	Palestinian-Israeli Joint Legal Committee
JRO	Justice Records Offices
KRA	Key Results Area
LAD	Legal Affairs Department
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOPA	Ministry of Planning Affairs
NSU	Palestinian Negotiations Support Unit
PA	Palestinian Authority
PACE	Palestinian Authority Capacity Enhancement Project
PIR	Project Intermediate Results
PJEP	Palestinian Justice Enhancement Program
PIRS	Project Indicator Reference Sheets
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PJI	Palestinian Judicial Institute
RFA	Request for Application
SAACB	State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Program

Executive Summary

The Palestinian Justice Enhancement Program (PJEP) seeks to support the Palestinian Authority in developing the capacity of the justice sector in the West Bank. The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Chemonics International.

The goal of this program is to strengthen public confidence in and respect for justice sector institutions and the Rule of Law in the West Bank. All of the activities will contribute to building capacity among targeted justice sector actors and institutions and will be directed to supporting the priorities and objectives of those actors and institutions. Assistance under this program will be closely coordinated with activities supported by other donors and U.S. government actors that aim to strengthen justice sector institutions and enhance the performance of the justice system. The project will achieve its goal through the four components which include:

- Component 1: Enhance accessibility and efficiency of targeted justice sector institutions
- Component 2: Strengthen capacity and credibility of justice sector professionals
- Component 3: Broaden public awareness of the Rule of Law and engagement with justice sector institutions
- Component 4: Use windows of opportunity to facilitate the development of legal, institutional, and policy frameworks that enhance judicial independence and justice sector coordination.

Early this year, PJEP received news that a congressional hold on FY 2011 funds had been implemented. The project had to re-evaluate all planned project activities and revised and received USAID approval for an interim work plan that focused on the highest priority activities. This re-evaluation included downsizing PJEP staff. PJEP halted the hiring process of technical and support staff who were under recruitment. Several cuts to project activities were also made, but toward the end of the year, PJEP received notice that all obligated funds for FY11 were released. PJEP immediately began re-vamping project activities and began the recruitment process for several positions. As of the end of the year, PJEP had hired staff for the following positions: Activities Coordinator, Senior Grants Accountant, Justice Institution Strengthening Specialist, Reporting and Communications Officer, Grants Officer, Media Officer and Legal Researcher as well as several embedded positions for justice sector institutions.

During the year, PJEP provided support to the High Judicial Council (HJC) by upgrading West Bank courts with the purchase of IT equipment and furniture as well as upgrading the Ministry of Justice's (MOJ) new office in Ramallah and the Justice Record Offices (JRO) in Tubas and Nablus. To support the HJC's efforts to bring the judiciary together for discussion, PJEP sponsored the HJC's Fifth Annual Judicial Conference in August, 2012. PJEP also provided capacity building training on various topics for MOJ and HJC staff. In addition, PJEP recruited project interns who are working to electronically archive documents and are assisting the MOJ and HJC in reducing case backlog by scanning and filing documents in their appropriate place. A number of consultants were contracted to provide technical assistance to the MOJ and HJC including a Case Management consultant who will assist with conducting a case weighting study

that will provide judicial workload informational standards for the HJC. A Joint Legal Committee Specialist was hired and is embedded at the MOJ and is working to improve the operations of the Joint Legal Committee (JLC). The JLC has recently been revitalized to provide a venue for consideration of practical legal issues concerning both Palestinian and Israeli counterparts. Toward the end of the second year, PJEP entered into a joint project activity with the USAID Palestinian Authority Capacity Enhancement Project (PACE) to completely remodel and furnish the Ramallah Conciliation Court.

To support the Palestinian Judicial Institute (PJI), the project completed the upgrades to the computer lab that is used by judges, lawyers and court staff as a resource for training and other educational purposes. PJEP also provided training for judges on Land Settlement Law, Insurance Law and Judicial Mediation as well as designed and conducted a Training of Trainers (TOT) program. Selected HJC court staff, PJI staff and HJC Training Department staff took part in the TOT program. In addition, PJEP reviewed and edited the Judicial Ethics course that was developed by a High Court judge. USAID and the EU contributed to the development of the Judicial Ethics course material. PJEP also produced and published the Civil Law course material. Both the Judicial Ethics and Civil Law courses will be added to PJI's Diploma Judicial Studies (DJS) program.

In its continued effort to support law schools the project conducted local and national moot court competitions for students from An Najah, Hebron, Ahliya and Al Quds law schools. In addition, PJEP provided computers and completed the remodeling of the moot court facilities for Al Ahliya, Hebron, and An Najah Universities, and provided books and legal periodicals for law schools' libraries.

The project also awarded 7 small grants to qualified Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) who work to build public awareness of legal rights and responsibilities, and enhances the public's understanding of the justice system. To assist the HJC's public outreach efforts the project provided support by printing the HJC Annual Report and the quarterly newsletter titled "Qada'una" (Our Justice System). PJEP completed the courtroom drama radio series campaign that helped contribute to the public understanding of legal issues and awareness of the court system. PJEP also supported the Judicial Media Conference that brought together justice sector actors and the media. To assist the MOJ, PJEP provided support for the Justice Record Office (JRO) and Authentication Department outreach campaign. The campaign highlighted the services conducted at the JRO and Authentication Department. And finally, PJEP provided film-editing and film-making trainings to MOJ and HJC media unit staff. The trainings helped build the capacity of the staff which is now better equipped to produce and edit short films and documentaries.

And finally, PJEP took part in a meeting with the State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau (SAACB) upon the request from USAID. The purpose of the meeting was to examine possible assistance that PJEP can provide the SAACB. The SAACB Director explained the work of the institution including their efforts to enhance good governance and promoting the principles of the Rule of Law. PJEP is expected to provide targeted assistance in the coming year.

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

Early this year, PJEP received news that a congressional hold on FY 2011 funds had been implemented. With this information, the project re-evaluated all planned project activities and revised and received USAID approval for an interim work plan that focuses on highest priority activities. This re-evaluation included downsizing PJEP staff. The positions scaled back included the Justice Institution Strengthening Expert, a project assistant and a driver. Short term international experts were notified to leave the project and return home. Two staff members including the Court Strengthening Specialist and the translator were placed on part-time contracts. PJEP halted the hiring process of technical and support staff that was under recruitment. Several cuts to project activities were also made including planned trainings to HJC and MOJ staff, the development of several DJS courses, grants cuts and planned conferences.

Months after the congressional hold was announced, partial funding was released and PJEP was able to re-instate some project activities. The additional activities included supporting service delivery in the Hebron, Dura and Tulkrum Courts, increasing specialized court staff training by 50% and assisting with producing and printing public outreach materials for the HJC and the MOJ. The total obligated funds for the first two fiscal years of the project were 6 million dollars, in contrast to the 9.5 million expected. The funding situation shortage has resulted in implementing limited activities compared to the original work plan activities.

But by the end of quarter 3, PJEP received notice that all obligated funds for FY11 were released. PJEP immediately began re-vamping project activities and began the recruitment process for several positions. PJEP has hired staff for the following positions: Activities Coordinator, Senior Grants Accountant, Justice Institution Strengthening Specialist, Communication & Reporting Officer, Grants Officer, Media Officer and Legal Researcher as well as several embedded positions for justice sector institutions. Toward the end of the year plan began developing the work plan activities and budget for FY 13.

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

The goal of the PJEP is to strengthen public confidence and respect for justice sector institutions and the Rule of Law in the West Bank. All PJEP activities contribute to building capacity among targeted justice sector officials and institutions and are directed to supporting the priorities and objectives of those officials and institutions. This section describes progress, challenges, and results of the project activities implemented in Year 2.

Component 1 – Enhance accessibility and efficiency of targeted justice sector institutions

The goal of these activities is to enable the judiciary to become more responsive to the public and to improve court user satisfaction concerning the fairness, accessibility, and efficiency of court processes and services. Rapid and visible improvements in court processes and services are a priority. The MOJ plays an important role in developing policy, formulating, coordinating, and implementing strategic plans, and in managing relationships with other justice sector institutions. It also provides critical services to the public. Therefore, focusing PJEP’s assistance to strengthen the public services provided by the MOJ and its outreach to the public is a priority. This component contains two subcomponents: upgrading the capacities of the HJC, and strengthening targeted functions within the MOJ.

Subcomponent 1A - Upgrade the capacities of the HJC

Key Result Area: Improve HJC services to the public



PJEP provides metal shelving to various West Bank court

Court upgrades: In order to ensure that PJEP is providing needed assistance to the HJC courts, several site visits were conducted throughout the West Bank earlier this year. PJEP’s COP and the Component 1 leader visited courts in the central, northern and southern parts of the West Bank. In the center, visits were made to the Ramallah Court of Conciliation, Court of First Instance, Court of Appeals, Notification Office, Notary Public Office and the archiving office for the courts as well as Jericho’s First Instance Court. In the north, visits were made to the Tubas and Salfit Conciliation Courts as well as Tulkram and Qalqilia First Instance Courts and Jenin and Nablus courts. And finally, site visits in the south included Halhul and Dora Conciliation Courts as well as Hebron and Bethlehem First Instance Courts. During the visits the

COP was introduced to the Chief Judges of the courts and was given a briefing on court procedures. The purpose of these visits was to prioritize and examine the possibility of providing support to the courts which would include the purchase of equipment and furniture for the purpose of improving service delivery and making court processes more efficient. After conducting the visits and after several meetings with the HJC it was decided that the Tubas Conciliation Court was to be the first court to receive assistance. PJEP provided the court with computers, chairs, a fax machine, signage and an A/C unit. PJEP also provide metal shelving to the Civil Judgment and Notary Public departments and the Court Registration office.

PJEP and the HJC then identified Hebron, Dora, Tulkram, and Salfit courts in order to receive assistance. It was agreed that PJEP would implement the upgrades once the HJC completes the

needed structural rehabilitation work for the courts. PJEP provided the HJC with a needs assessment to identify the type of rehabilitation required in each court. By mid-year, the upgrades were completed and PJEP delivered furniture and IT equipment for the First Instance and Conciliation Courts, Civil Judgment and Notary Public departments, as well as the archiving rooms in every department for these courts. PJEP also coordinated the carpentry work for the courts. The carpentry work included providing more counter space which have seated additional staff working in the court and redesigning the customer service layout in order to accommodate waiting areas.



PJEP upgrades West Bank courts

Also this year, a separate inspection visit was conducted to the Civil Judgment department in Nablus where PJEP later provided shelving, counters, office chairs, and curtains. The upgrades included an additional 3 counters that have allowed the staff at the Civil Judgment department to serve more court users at a faster rate.

Toward the end of the year, PJEP and the HJC identified the following courts to receive further assistance: Salfit, Nablus, Jenin, Tubas, Tulkrum, Qalqilia, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Dora, Halhoul, Hebron, and Jericho. PJEP has begun procuring IT equipment and furniture. The upgrade to these courts will be completed in the next fiscal year.

Ramallah Conciliation Court upgrades: During the year, PJEP was requested by USAID to collaborate with the USAID PACE project in rehabilitating one of the busiest courts in Ramallah. The Ramallah Conciliation Court handles all misdemeanor cases in Ramallah governorate, and a wide range of civil cases related to land, property, and basic commercial disputes. In 2010, the court handled 32,142 cases—the highest volume of cases handled by any Palestinian court during that year. In comparison, the Ramallah First Instance Court handled only 2,805 cases in 2010, which means that over 92% of cases handled in the Ramallah governorate are handled by the Conciliation Court. This easily classifies conciliation courts as the primary point of contact between Palestinian citizens and the justice system.

To get a quick start, PJEP and PACE began visiting the court to determine the preliminary cost for re-designing the court. Upgrades to the court will begin early next fiscal year. PJEP will provide the court with furniture and IT equipment and will pay for engineering and architecture fees while PACE will rehabilitate and upgrade the court structure. As such, this activity is based on the need for more efficient use of space for public customers, including queuing systems, additional seating, and air conditioning. It will also separate judges from public areas, helping to control public access and provide judges with an improved work environment. The refurbishment will also improve the filing areas and create appropriate locked areas for evidence storage.

Court of Appeals upgrades: Also during the year, PJEP completed the final delivery of furniture to the Court of Appeals. PJEP provided chairs for judges, court staff, and the public, and curtains for courtrooms. This delivery complements earlier PJEP upgrades of furniture for judge's offices, public waiting rooms, and the Court of Appeals courtroom. The end result of this activity is a more efficient and user-friendly use of space, better access to the court, enhanced employee performance and improved services to the public.



Ramallah Court of Appeals receives IT equipment and furniture upgrades

In order to measure the impact of how this improved the HJC services to the public, PJEP conducted a pre-survey and a post-survey. The survey measured employee performance and the speed in which the public received services at the court. The in-house survey results show that as a result of the facilities upgrades 92.8% of staff stated it now takes less than 15 minutes for court users to receive service. This reflects a 42.8% increase in faster services provided to the public. The survey results affirm the positive impact this activity had for both court staff and the public.

Technical Support to the HJC: In order to continue supporting the justice sector institutions, PJEP hired 44 data entry interns to assist at the Civil Judgment and Notary Public departments in various courts in the West Bank. The interns received training and an orientation on how to enter data into the Al Mizan 2 system. PJEP provided 24 computers for the HJC in order to assist with the data entry process. The interns are also scanning backlogged documents using the heavy duty scanners



PJEP hires interns to provide assistance to the HJC

PJEP provided. The assistance will help the departments reduce its case backlog and assist in archiving documents that have yet to be filed in their proper place.

During the year, PJEP provided a Case Management consultant to assist the HJC in developing new and effective case flow measurement and other statistical tools. The consultant met with HJC department heads and staff to discuss performance measures and backlog reduction strategies. The consultant also requested case filing and disposition statistics extracted from the Mizan 2 database and began drafting assessment reports of existing statistical tools for the case management currently used by the HJC. The consultant drafted annotated profiles and

management consultant submitted a detailed report of the findings and recommendations in order to improve the case flow management at the HJC. The report was used as a guide when meeting with the head of the HJC Planning Unit to discuss the implementation of activities that will help improve case management at the courts. The consultant, with agreement and cooperation of the HJC, developed a case management activities list that included the following:

- Develop time standards (this activity was started by the EU-funded SEYEDA II project. Now that SEYADA has closed, PJEP will support the HJC in finishing and implementing case time standards)
- Develop a time standards implementation timetable
- Develop a case weighting study
- Develop plans for a backlog reduction task force, to be considered after case time standards have been finalized and adopted
- Develop recommendations for a model courts program

The consultant along with the HJC also had discussions on subjects including the development of the case weighting study that will be conducted in October 2012, and the status of the case time standards activity. PJEP will use its data entry interns to file and review the data for the time standards activity currently taking place. These activities will help the HJC develop a more effective case flow management process leading to improvement in the courts.

Moreover, PJEP recruited a Statistics Specialist to provide assistance to the technical office at the HJC. The Specialist will develop data collection forms that will be used for work programs and statistical analysis. In addition, the Specialist will train court staff on using the data collection forms as well as work with the staff to develop indicators that will help evaluate the court's performance. The Statistics Specialist is embedded at the HJC. PJEP's Legal Researcher consultant for the HJC is preparing a concept paper detailing a training that will be conducted for the HJC Research Center staff. The training which will be conducted by PJEP's consultant will focus on building the skills and capacity of the staff.

HJC IT Equipment Upgrade: Early this year, PJEP purchased IT equipment including personal computers (PC's), heavy duty scanners, printers, networking systems, video cameras, digital camera accessories, and photocopiers for the HJC. PJEP delivered 56 computers and 20 heavy duty scanners to the HJC Procurement Department, which distributed them to the various West Bank courts and departments. The computers will be used in the courtrooms for printing case transcripts for the judges, lawyers, and prosecutors. The scanners will be used to archive case files and will assist in improving the case management in the courts. This activity is part of PJEP's overall goal to improve the public perception of professionalism in the courts and to increase access to court user information. The IT equipment will also facilitate better services to the public as well as assist the staff in performing their work duties more efficiently.

To further assist the HJC, MOJ and PJI to improve their IT capabilities, PJEP's IT consultant conducted a preliminary needs assessment. The consultant presented the findings and recommendations of the needs assessment report to PJEP who will use the findings to determine what type of activities to implement at the HJC, MOJ and PJI. Additionally, PJEP's IT consultant met with head of HJC Training Department to discuss the requirements needed for establishing a training database for the HJC Training Department. The database will be used to track the number of trainings that take place and the staff taking the trainings. The database will also help to avoid duplication of trainings as well as assist in coordinating training schedules.

Key Result Area: Provide training and technical assistance to HJC Departments

Essential skills training: Keyboarding training targeting 47 HJC and 10 MOJ staff in Hebron, Tulkrum, Nablus and Ramallah was conducted this year. The 60 hour training sessions focused on speed and accuracy of typing documents and transcripts. As a result, the training has enabled the HJC and MOJ staff to be more efficient and accurate when producing official documents. HJC staff members working in the courts are now better equipped to type case transcripts more quickly, and both the HJC and the MOJ staff are better qualified to manage case files. The trained justice sector staff members are also now more capable of providing better and faster services to the public.

To measure impact and success of the keyboarding training, each trainee participated in a pre-test and post-test. The results show a 28% increase in typing accuracy and a 15 word per minute increase in the typing speed of the participants.

To recognize this achievement, a ceremony was held on February 16, 2012 at the HJC Media Center. The Chief Justice and the head of the Court Administration Department hosted the ceremony and attendees included USAID's Democracy and Governance Deputy Director, USAID PJEP's Contract Officer Representative (COR), the PJEP Chief of Party (COP) and Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP), and the trainees.



HJC staff completes 60 hours of keyboarding training

To further assist the justice sector institutions, PJEP conducted level one and two English language training for MOJ and HJC administrators. The 16 hour English language training sessions helped to improve the English

language skills of the administrators who conduct coordination meetings with international donors. The training also served to provide accessibility to English language resources for all staff. In total, 18 HJC and 13 MOJ staff took part in the English language training.

A pre-test and post-test to measure the impact and success of the training was conducted. The level one result indicates that the trainees' English language knowledge increased by 25% after receiving the training. The level two training shows a 30% increase in the trainees' English language knowledge.

PJEP held the English language graduation ceremony at the HJC Media Center. The head of the



HJC staff takes part in the English language training

HJC Media Center. The head of the Court Administration Department Judge Izzat Rameeni thanked USAID/PJEP for funding the training. Judge Izzat congratulated the trainees on their dedication, and PJEP's COP highlighted PJEP's commitment to the HJC. Both Judge Izzat and PJEP's COP presented the 18 HJC trainees with certificates of completion.

International Computer Driving License (ICDL) Basic Computer Skills training: During the year, PJEP launched and completed the 60 hour "Basic Computer Skills" (ICDL) training for 68 HJC staff from various courts throughout the West Bank and 15 MOJ staff. The training was conducted in four locations including Tulkram, Nablus, Hebron, and Ramallah. The training focused on the use of Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and the use of the internet and e-mail.

The head of the Court Administration Department Judge Izzat Rameeni launched the first session in Ramallah and commented on the significance of the training course and emphasized the importance of staff to dedicate their time to completing the course in a successful manner in order to receive the best possible results. The overall goal of the ICDL training was to enable the court staff to work more efficiently and to have a better command of the computer and its functions. The training also helped improve the computer skills of the court staff which will allow the staff to provide better and more efficient services to the public.

The 5th Judicial Conference: This year, PJEP supported the HJC 5th Annual Judicial Conference which took place on August 30-31, 2012 at the Jacir Intercontinental Hotel in Bethlehem. The



PJEP supports the 5th Annual Judicial Conference in Bethlehem

two-day conference titled "Respect for the Judiciary and the Independence of Judges" brought together 170 West Bank and Gaza judges to discuss major achievements of the judicial authority and to address challenges facing the courts and judges as well as to produce recommendations to improve the performance of the judicial authority. Attendees included the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice, USAID's Director of Democracy and Governance, USAID's Contract Officer Representative (COR), PJEP's Chief of Party (COP) and Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP). Also in attendance were the Attorney General, the Governor of Bethlehem and over 100 invited

guests including ministers and CSO representatives. During his opening speech Prime Minister Salam Fayyad spoke of the importance of keeping the judiciary an independent entity. In his opening speech, Chief Justice Fared Al Jallad thanked USAID and PJEP for all the support that

has been provided to the judiciary. At the end of the opening session the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice presented plaques of appreciation to 5 West Bank judges who retired this year.

Key Result Area: Assist in activation and development of the Palestinian-Israeli Joint Legal Committee (JLC): The JLC has recently been revitalized to provide a venue for consideration of practical legal issues concerning both Palestinian and Israeli counterparts. The JLC is a venue for committee members to discuss troublesome technical issues in a technically-oriented, non-political setting. During the year, the JLC Specialist who is embedded at the MOJ worked on the following actions:

Extradition Request: A major success accomplished through the work of the JLC was the arrest of two Palestinian suspects who fled into Israel and were then extradited to the Palestinian territories. The extradition was based on a request which was prepared by the JLC Senior Specialist and was the first ever to be prepared and submitted to the Israeli counterpart according to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement. The extradition request was sent to the Israeli counterpart for review and approval. The JLC Specialist then received an official letter from the Legal Advisor to the Israeli Government and the Israeli Minister of Justice which approved the extradition requests of three Palestinian murder suspects from the West Bank city of Qalqilia. After the approval of the extradition request the Israeli counterpart confirmed with the JLC Specialist that all legal procedures are in place for the search of and apprehension for the murder suspects. Two of the three suspects were arrested by the Israeli police then handed over to the Palestinian police and arraigned in court. With the successful extradition of these Palestinian suspects more extradition requests were submitted to the JLC Specialist. The Palestinian General Police Directorate provided the JLC Specialist with a list of 59 names and charges against Palestinian criminal suspects who have fled into Israel. The Specialist is examining the list of names and charges to verify if they meet the requirements of the extradition request procedure according to the annex 4 of the Palestinian-Israeli Interim Agreement.

Mutual Legal Assistance: The mutual legal assistance was set up in order to conduct judicial coordination between the Palestinian and Israeli counterparts in regards to civil cases and legal issues. As part of the assistance, the JLC Specialist follows up on these cases in both the Palestinian and Israeli courts. Through the mutual legal assistance, the JLC Specialist delivered the authentication document of a court decision that was made by a judge in Haifa. The Israeli counterpart requested the JLC Specialist to provide the proper documentation for the court decision. The JLC Specialist received other documents from the Israeli counterpart for authentication. The JLC Specialist will validate the documents that were provided by the Israeli counterpart at the Palestinian MOJ Authentication Department.

Legal Concept Papers Developed: The JLC Specialist developed a document titled “The Palestinian-Israeli JLC Mandates, Requirements, Obstacles and Objectives” that includes the functions, goals, and challenges facing the JLC committee. The Palestinian counterparts are now using this document as a guide and basis for the work the JLC conducts. In addition, the Specialist developed a legal concept paper on the Palestinian jurisdiction on Israeli ID holders who commit crimes in the Palestinian territories. The document clarifies a number of issues that have to do with the jurisdiction of this group and will be used as a reference on how to handle such cases in Palestine.

JLC Sub-committees: The JLC criminal evidence sub-committee and the JLC legal assistance sub-committee were formed with the assistance of the JLC Specialist. The formation of the sub-committees has made the JLC an institutionalized entity that is better prepared to tackle specific legal issues. These committees were formed through consultation between the Palestinian and Israeli counterparts. Through the sub-committees the Palestinian and Israeli counterparts met to discuss ways to strengthen the work of the JLC. Both parties agreed to promote the work of the criminal evidence sub-committee and to solve issues related to land files.

Currently, the JLC Specialist is arranging for a meeting through the Palestinian-Israeli JLC legal assistance sub-committee to discuss the use of evidence bags and to formally adopt the use of these bags for the transfer of evidence between the two counterparts. The Senior JLC Specialist received samples of the evidence bags from the representative of the EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EUPOL COPPS) for the purpose of using the bags when investigating a mutual criminal case between the Palestinian and Israeli police. The meeting is expected to take place early next fiscal year.

Coordination Meetings: The JLC Specialist met the EUPOL COPPS head of the Rule of Law to discuss the request by the EUPOL COPPS for the JLC to support the pilot of two cases in which the Palestinian counterpart transfers evidence to the Israeli counterpart in regard to crimes committed by Israelis in the Palestinian territories. The JLC Specialist informed the EUPOL COPPS representative that any support must be conducted through the JLC and the selection of the pilot cases must be approved by the Palestinian MOJ. A second meeting was held with the EUPOL COPPS to discuss conducting two workshops related to criminal investigations and the chain of evidence. The workshops will be conducted for the Palestinian and Israeli counterparts in the coming months.

Additionally, the JLC Specialist met with the Quartet Representative for the Rule of Law to discuss possible Quartet support to the JLC, including specifically for cases in area C that are related to the mandates of the JLC. The JLC Specialist briefed the Deputy Minister of Justice on the discussions, which then applauded the efforts of the Quartet for the support it provides to the JLC.

Moreover, the JLC Specialist coordinated and participated in the meeting between the Minister of Justice and Mr. Michael Wood, a member of the International Law Commission of the United Nations and Legal Advisor for the Palestinian Negotiations Support Unit (NSU). The meeting discussed legal issues concerning the MOJ.

Other Duties: The Senior JLC Specialist helped build the archiving system for the JLC by requesting and receiving records of all previous JLC discussions and meetings from the Israeli counterparts. The Palestinian MOJ did not keep such records. The records received date back to 1996 when the JLC first became active. The archiving system will help the MOJ retrieve information in a more efficient manner.

The JLC Specialist is also working with a United Nations Development Program (UNDP) contractor who is gathering data on the Palestinian criminal justice system. The data will be used to develop a study that will measure impact of movement restrictions on the Palestinian justice sector.

In addition, the JLC Specialist worked with the Israeli Ministry of Civil Affairs to obtain permits to allow judges in Gaza to participate in case hearings being held at the HJC in the West Bank. Moreover, the JLC Specialist and the Quartet Representative for the Rule of Law are working together to coordinate with the Israeli counterparts all permit requests submitted by the Palestinian counterparts.

Subcomponent 1B - Strengthen targeted functions within the MOJ

Key Result Area: Improve MOJ public services

Support to the MOJ: As well as providing legal services to the PA, the MOJ provides a number of services directly to the public. These include non-conviction certificates, certification of professional experts (e.g. translators and arbitrators), ratification and authentication of documents such as powers of attorney, certificates, and other legal documents that are ratified by PA representational offices abroad. Alternative dispute resolution documentation is also provided.



MOJ's Media Unit department receives office furniture and equipment

Early in the year, PJEP completed all the upgrades to the Justice Information Center (JIC) and Legal Affairs Department (LAD) which are housed at the new MOJ space. PJEP delivered office furniture, cabinets, A/C units, chairs, and installed curtains for the departments. PJEP also provided IT equipment for the new MOJ space. The equipment delivery included 36 computers, a sound system, and an internet-connected telephone system and telephone accessories.

To further assist the MOJ, PJEP provided additional upgrades to the JIC including signage, carpeting, and carpentry work. The carpentry work included the installation of a main and back stage, a podium, and tables. The JIC serves as a multi-purpose facility for the MOJ and hosts all press conferences and all media related events. The overall goal of this activity is to enhance the capacity of the MOJ departments to provide better services to the public and to support the MOJ's public outreach and increase public satisfaction with the MOJ.

Assist the MOJ establish and upgrade district JROs: Early in the year, PJEP's COR, the COP



MOJ's JRO in Tubas is established with PJEP's support

and the Component 1 leader conducted site visits to the MOJ's Nablus and Tubas offices. The purpose of the visits was to gather information on the needs for the offices in these areas. The Tubas site at the time of the visit did not have an established office but with PJEP's assistance a MOJ office was created. The MOJ agreed to provide and renovate a space for the MOJ office in Tubas. Once the rehabilitation was completed, PJEP supplied chairs, desks, cabinets and seats for the public waiting area as well as installed the signage for the MOJ departments including the JRO, LAD, Forensic office and the Office of the Director. PJEP also provided the Tubas JRO with work station units that seat three MOJ staff. The MOJ has appointed one staff member to work at the office. These facilities upgrades will allow the public to receive MOJ related services such as obtaining Non-Conviction Certificates at the Tubas office instead of traveling to Ramallah or Nablus.

For the MOJ Nablus JRO, PJEP delivered chairs, desks, cabinets, and seats for the public waiting area in addition to completing the shelving for the archiving room. PJEP also completed the upgrades to the Nablus MOJ training room. PJEP delivered a smart board that includes a projector and a video screen as well as folding tablet arm chairs. The equipment will be used to facilitate training sessions at the institution.

MOJ Authentication Services: In the Ramallah MOJ office, PJEP is currently working with the MOJ to achieve the "One Million Document Project". The project aims to electronically archive one million official documents verified by the MOJ as part of the authentication services. Archiving these official public documents will make it easier for staff to retrieve the documents when requested by the public, as well as to preserve the confidentiality of the documents. The assistance will also help the institution reduce its case backlog and assist in archiving documents that have yet to be archived in their proper place, both in paper files and electronically.

During the year, PJEP completed the upgrades of a designated area at the Authentication Department that is housing PJEP's data entry interns. Four data entry interns have been employed to assist with the "One Million Document Project". The PJEP interns received training and an orientation on how to conduct the needed work for the MOJ. In addition, PJEP delivered a network storage unit which is heavy duty equipment that will allow for the proper storage of information and documents.

Assistance to the Deputy Minister Office (DMO): In its continued efforts to support the MOJ, a PJEP advisor began working at the Deputy Minister's Office. The advisor is embedded at the MOJ and is providing support in order to improve the administrative procedures in the Office. During the year, PJEP's advisor conducted a number of assignments, including the development of a concept paper on performance management. The performance management paper will be used as a management tool to track the performance of MOJ staff. The advisor collected information on the internal and external committees the MOJ oversees. The information gathered

will help keep a record of the work committees headed by the Deputy Minister. In addition, a data form was developed that includes a cover letter to be used by the MOJ committees. The advisor also followed up on the use of the Document Management Archiving System (DMAS) in cooperation with the IT department. The system is being used to archive official documents and the advisor is overseeing this process. The support provided to the DMO will help improve administrative practices and help the MOJ to function more efficiently and effectively.

Also this year, PJEP's advisor met with the General Director of the Minister's Office to discuss developing a work schedule that will include reports and coordination meetings. The schedule will help organize the meetings for the Deputy Minister's Office. In addition, the advisor developed a weekly report template to be use by staff at the Deputy Minister's Office. The advisor is using the information to develop weekly reports that highlight the achievements conducted at the office. The advisor also attended a meeting with the representative from the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO). The representative is assessing the type of cooperation that is taking place between the MOJ and PNGO.

Additionally, PJEP's advisor arranged several meetings for the Deputy Minister including a meeting with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Chief Technical Advisor and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Furthermore, PJEP's advisor prepared for and facilitated the steering committee meeting for the Forensic Medicine stakeholder's workshop that took place at the MOJ. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Ministry of Interior (MOI), Ministry of Planning Affairs (MOPA), the Attorney General and the Palestinian police.

Component 2 – Strengthen the capacity and credibility of justice sector professionals

During the year, PJEP worked with the PJI staff to develop several DJS courses while taking into account the results of both needs and impact assessments. The courses will target judges, court staff, prosecutors, and other PJI audiences. PJEP is working to strengthen core and specialized legal skills for judges and court staff as well as building the capacity of the PJI staff to develop training impact assessments. PJEP also worked with a number of law schools to conduct local and national moot court competitions and has helped establish and upgrade reliable computer labs, libraries and moot court facilities for the partnering universities. Moreover, PJEP has begun developing course material for the law schools.

Key Result Area: Strengthen the capacity of the PJI

Develop DJS courses: At the request of the Director of the PJI, PJEP began assisting in strengthening and developing a number of judicial education courses that are part of PJI's new DJS program. The program is part of the PJI's curriculum for lawyers who are interested in becoming judges. The courses are designed to include case study exercises and court precedents that will assist in fostering the practical skills of those who take these courses.

In the beginning of the fiscal year, PJEP reviewed and edited the Judicial Ethics course that was



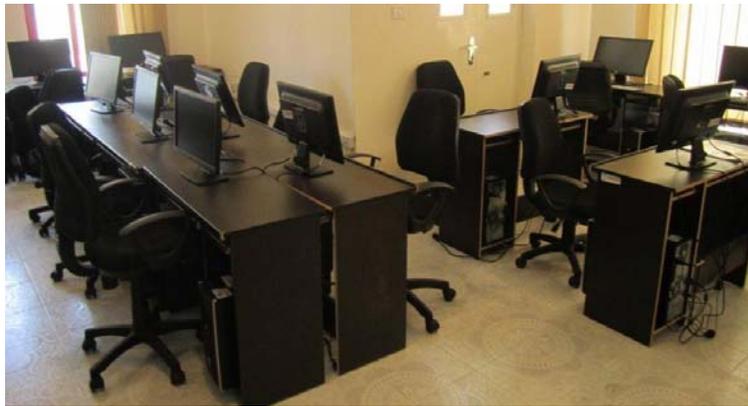
PJEP publishes the Judicial Ethics course material

developed by a High Court judge. USAID and the EU contributed to the development of the Judicial Ethics course material. 500 copies were printed and distributed to the PJI who will use the material as part of the DJS program. A meeting was also held with PJEP's USAID COR, the COP and DCOP, the EU's Rule of Law Specialist and the Director of the Seyada 2 Project to present copies of the Judicial Ethics course material. The meeting focused on cooperation between the EU and USAID and unifying efforts toward supporting the PJI.

Furthermore, PJEP developed and completed the Civil Law course material. PJEP along with the PJI conducted a workshop to discuss the final draft of the Civil Law course material. The workshop began with the PJI's Director welcoming the attendees that included judges, academics and members of the judicial committee which was created by the HJC to support the development of the PJI's course material. The Director went on to thank USAID/PJEP for the valuable work it has provided in assisting the PJI develop course material for the DJS program. PJEP's consultant then conducted a presentation on the content of the Civil Law course material which includes case study exercises and court precedents that will assist in fostering the practical skills of the course. The participants reviewed the material at which time the judicial committee which was formed by the PJI and HJC Training Department approved the course to be added to the curriculum of the DJS program. PJEP is currently in the process of printing 1,000 copies of the course material. This course is the first of its kind to be added to the DJS and is anticipated to be introduced to the program in the coming months. PJEP will develop 4 additional courses for the DJS program over the next several months. To date, PJEP has begun developing the Commercial Law and Land Law course materials.

Supporting the enabling environment: In order to assist the PJI to become a more efficient and creditable institution where judges, lawyers, and court staff can use the institution as a resource for training and other educational purposes, PJEP upgraded several PJI offices.

With the PJI's move to the new MOJ space in Ramallah early this FY, PJEP provided furniture



PJEP provides IT equipment and furniture for the new MOJ space

including desks, chairs, cabinets, and A/C units and installed all signage to the PJI offices. PJEP installed a reception counter that is situated at the entrance of the PJI in addition to establishing two training rooms and a focus group meeting room. Furthermore, PJEP completed the upgrades to the computer lab which will be used for trainings. The lab received IT equipment that included 23 PC's, a heavy duty printer/scanner, a video projector, a tripod screen and an overhead

projector. PJEP also designed and printed two banners that will be used during trainings that take place at the Institute. The new space has increased PJI capacity to host additional trainings, and provide necessary space for possible expansion of staff.

Key Result Area: Strengthen core and specialized legal skills for judges and court staff

Judicial Continuing Education Program: In the beginning of the FY, a request was submitted to PJEP by the HJC Training Department to assist with developing the continuing education plan for the Judicial Continuing Education Program at the PJI. PJEP developed a list of training priorities for continuing education development based on various discussions conducted with several HJC departments and judges and on the results of a survey PJEP conducted for judges at the HJC Judicial Annual Conference. PJEP along with the PJI and HJC Training Department then compiled a list of training topics to be conducted for the judges. The continuing education program targets practicing judges in order to refresh their skills and enhance their knowledge in specialized areas of the law and core judicial skills.

During the year, PJEP supported the following trainings: Land settlement Law, Judicial Mediation, Insurance Law and Criminal Procedures Law.

With the PA processing land registration, the HJC identified a need for judges to receive training on land settlement issues, as land ownership issues are both common and complex. The “Land Settlement Law” training course began with opening statements given by the PJI Director, PJEP’s COP and the USAID COR. The five day training was conducted in Ramallah for 17 Land Settlement Judges from various West Bank courts. Some of the judges participating in this training



Judges take part in the Land Settlement Law training

have presided over land settlement cases while others are expecting to preside over such cases when a decision to conduct land settlement trials is given in their jurisdictions (land settlement issues are heard in the First Instance Courts). A Jordanian land settlement expert, who is the Deputy Director of the Jordanian Department of Land and Survey, conducted the training along with a co-trainer from a West Bank First Instance Court.

The “Judicial Mediation” training focused on alternative methods of resolving disputes by a judge outside the formal court setting. During the training, PJEP’s trainer presented materials related to judicial mediation and screened videos on how to conduct conciliation sessions in front of a judge. 14 judges from various West Bank courts participated in the training. At the end of the training, the head of the Training Department and PJEP’s Component 2 Leader presented the 14 judges with certificates of completion. Also in attendance were the Deputy of the High Court and the head of the HJC Training Department.

The “Insurance Law” training focused on reviewing insurance policies, determining the judgment of the insurance cases and compensation benefits. The six day training targeted 15 judges from the First Instance and Conciliation Courts.

PJEP conducted three-day training on “Criminal Law Procedure”. The training targeted 13



Judges take part in the Criminal Law Procedures training

judges from various West Bank courts and focused on a number of topics including general principles of the law, civil rights cases, arrest procedures, the judge’s authority in assessing the evidence and criminal judgment appeals. The Chief Justice and PJEP’s COP attended the opening session of the training. The Chief Justice thanked PJEP for their efforts in supporting the HJC and enhancing the justice system in Palestine. He stressed the importance of keeping the judicial authority independent. PJEP’s COP welcomed the judges and stressed PJEP’s continued efforts to support the judiciary. PJEP will continue to support the Continuing Judicial Education Program in the coming year.

Press releases on the training were posted on the following websites:

<http://www.wafa.ps/arabic/index.php?action=detail&id=139335#>

<http://www.maannews.net/arb/Print.aspx?ID=524115>

http://www.courts.gov.ps/details_ar.aspx?id=BXv0zta414012555aBXv0zt

Court Staff Training-of-Trainers (TOT) Program: The TOT program taught court staff trainers the ADDIE model (Assess, Design, Develop, Implement and Evaluate Training Programs). The



ADDIE model uses an adult learning methodology to assist in fostering on-the-job training. During the year, PJEP's Senior Training Specialist completed phase one of the TOT program. The training targeted 11 senior level court staff from the Notary Public, Civil Judgment and Notification Departments as well as the Court Registration.

PJEP conducts the TOT training for court staff

The training sessions included both classroom training and practical skills on-the-job training. The trainees learned to produce needs assessments, develop training plans, and design training curricula which were used for the second phase of the TOT program. During the second phase of the TOT program, the 11 trainees conducted 9 training days for court staff from various West Bank courts. PJEP's Senior Training Specialist aided and supervised the trainees throughout the phase two training program. The breakdown of phase two trainings is as follows:

- Three Notary Public trainers conducted two days of training for 16 Notary Public staff. The training focused on reviewing notary public procedures and the roles and legal responsibilities of the staff. In addition, the trainees provided real case examples of issues that were raised during their work and the trainers provided guidance on how to resolve each case.
- Three Civil Judgment trainers conducted two days of training for 15 Civil Judgment staff. The training focused on legal issues regarding civil judgment decisions. Surveys confirmed trainees were very satisfied with the training and that the training increased their knowledge on issues related to their work, law and procedures. 10 out of the 15 court staff (66%) said the training will help to minimize work mistakes. They also felt the training provided them with new information and skills.
- Three Notification trainers conducted three days of training for 50 Notification staff. The training focused on notification procedures and protocol.
- Two Court Registry trainers conducted two days of training for 15 registry staff. The training focused on court registration process and procedures.

In total, 96 court staff took part in the phase two TOT program. The PJEP Senior Training Specialist expressed satisfaction with the performance of the trainers who used all the skills and knowledge that was taught to them during phase one of the TOT program. A graduation ceremony for the 11 trainee's took place with the USAID/PJEP COR and PJEP's COP attending

the ceremony. The head of the HJC Training Department said this training was very important because it helped develop the skills of these trainees who in turn will use the knowledge learned



PJEP conducts a graduation ceremony for the TOT participants

to train other court staff. The USAID/PJEP COR said she was pleased that the trainees expressed satisfaction with the training. PJEP's COP reassured the trainees that PJEP will continue to support capacity building trainings for the court staff. The head of the HJC Training Department, the USAID/PJEP COR and PJEP's COP presented the 11 trainees with certificates of completion for the phase one TOT program.

Also this year, PJEP's Senior Training Specialist trained 9 PJI and HJC Training Department staff on the phase one TOT program. The training focused on how to develop needs assessments

based on quantitative and qualitative data collection, presentation of the main findings, priorities and recommendations and how to develop the training plan for 2013. In addition, phase three of the TOT program began late in the year. The trainers of the phase one TOT program have begun training other court staff from various West Bank locations. Currently, all notification department staff from the south, north and central West Bank is receiving training on unified notification procedures. PJEP's Senior Training Specialist is supporting the trainers and providing guidance as needed.

In the southern part of the West Bank, a pre-test and a post-test were administered to the trainees to measure the level of knowledge the court staff have about unified procedures and to identify areas of improvement. The post-test findings indicate that 50% of the court staff received 100% on the post-test while the rest of the trainees received between 80-85%. The results show an increase in trainees' knowledge about how unified notification procedures are conducted. The court staff expressed satisfaction with the training, and said they will use the skills learned in the training in their work place.

Training Evaluation Manual: PJEP's Senior Training Specialist developed a training evaluation manual. The manual will be used as a reference for the PJI to evaluate training programs it conducts. The Senior Specialist trained the TOT trainers, the PJI Director and Academic Committee and the HJC Training Department staff on the use of the manual. The training familiarized the staff with the evaluation manual as well as trained staff on how to use the manual properly in order to receive maximum benefit. An English summary of the manual was also produced by PJEP. PJEP printed 500 copies of the manual.

Unified Procedures Manual: During the year, PJEP began assisting the HJC in printing the court unified procedures manual for the Notary Public, Civil Judgment and Notification Departments and the Court Registry Office. The manuals will be used by court staff to help unify the court procedures and transactions of all the courts. Lawyers and the court users will also have access to the manuals which will help them to be aware of the court procedures. In total 20,000 copies will be printed in the coming months.

Key Result Area: Strengthen practical legal education

Provide assistance to five law schools: During the year, PJEP identified the following 5 law schools to receive assistance: Al Ahliya Law School in Bethlehem, Hebron University, Modern College in Ramallah, Al Quds University and An-Najah University in Nablus. All the law schools have signed the Anti-Terrorism Certificate (ATC) and USAID vetting approval was received. The vetting approvals enabled PJEP to proceed with several law school activities including the moot court competitions, computer lab upgrades, development of moot court facilities and the purchase of legal periodicals and books.

Moot Court Competitions: During the year, PJEP conducted several coordination meetings with Al Quds, An Najah, Al Ahliya, Modern College and Hebron law schools to discuss the Moot Court Competition. After the meetings it was decided that third and fourth year law students from Al Quds, An Najah, Al Ahliya and Hebron law schools were prepared to take part in the local competition. The Component 2 leader conducted an orientation session for the selected students in order to familiarize the students on how the moot court competition works. The moot court competition enabled the law students to take part in simulated court proceedings where they present their memorials (legal briefs) and participate in oral arguments in front of a panel of judges. The competition is a form of practical skills training that allows the law students to practice oral arguments.



A law student takes part in the Local Moot Court Competition

The competitions were held in Al Quds, An Najah, Hebron, and Al Ahliya Universities. In total, 41 law students were selected to take part in the competitions which focused on international and humanitarian law. The cases included a military attack against a country; bombing a hospital; women's rights, and investigating bribery and corruption crimes. The moot court competition event was opened to all law school students from the selected universities which were presented as a form of training for the attendees on how to present oral arguments in a court room. Over 300 law students attended the competitions.

During the opening ceremonies the deans of each university welcomed PJEP's team including the COP and thanked USAID/PJEP in supporting the law schools. PJEP's COP thanked the universities for participating in the moot court competition. PJEP presented awards to 19 winning students who competed in the National Moot Court Competition that took place in An Najah University.

PJEP began preparing the winning students for a national competition by conducting several training sessions. The training included assigning the team members to the different components of the case, determining the role of each team member and explaining how to develop the memorial. Training also included conducting legal research and analyzing case studies with reference to different sources of public international law. A pre-test and post-test were given to the law students and the results indicate that after the moot court trainings there was a 100% increase in knowledge on writing, presenting and arguing legal cases.

On July 12, 2012 the National Moot Court Competition took place at An Najah University. The USAID Deputy Mission Director, the USAID/PJEP COR, the head of the Bar Association, and the Presidents and Deans of the Al Quds, Hebron, Al Ahliya and An Najah Universities attended

the competition. The National Moot Court Competition brought together for the first time Palestinian law students from Al Quds, An Najah, Hebron, and Al Ahliya Universities to compete against each other. The students were divided into four teams. Each team received a case study, and then presented oral arguments for and against the case in front of a panel of



Law students attend the National Moot Court Competition in Nablus

judges. Over a hundred law students attended the competition which was a form of training for the attendees on how to present oral arguments in a court room.

By implementing the moot court competition activities for the first time in Palestinian law schools, PJEP's goal was to improve students' practical skills. PJEP will work closely with the law schools in order to institutionalize the competition in the university setting. The moot court competitions will give law students an excellent

opportunity to train on presenting legal cases before becoming practicing lawyers.

Establish/upgrade reliable computer labs for Law Schools: In order to provide better facilities to



USAID's Deputy Mission Director takes part in the ribbon cutting ceremony at An Najah University in Nablus

law schools, PJEP supported the universities to establish/upgrade computer labs. The lab upgrades will enable law students to build their computer skills and will allow the students to conduct online legal research which will broaden and strengthen their legal capabilities.

Earlier this year, PJEP procured and delivered furniture and IT equipment for the computer labs of Al Ahliya, Hebron, and An Najah Universities. The furniture purchased included desks, chairs, and A/C units. The IT equipment purchases included computers, printers, networking

systems, and LCD projectors. PJEP also provided the Modern College with an overhead projector and a tripod screen.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was conducted at An Najah University with the Deputy Mission Director, the Vice President of An Najah and the head of the First Instance court.

Create moot court facilities: This year, PJEP completed the remodeling of the moot court



PJEP upgrades moot court facilities for several law schools

facilities for Al Ahliya, Hebron, and An Najah Universities. These universities received judges' benches, desks, chairs, signage plaques, and podiums. The moot court facilities will enable students to have a

dedicated area in which to strengthen their oral argument skills and their practical skills knowledge.

Establish specialized legal libraries: In its continued support to law schools in Palestine, PJEP assisted the universities in establishing specialized legal libraries. The law school submitted to PJEP lists of books and legal periodicals they need. Accordingly, PJEP procured the books and references requested and by the end of the year delivered the material. PJEP provided books and legal periodicals for Al Ahliya, Hebron, Modern College, Al Quds, and An-Najah Universities. Each law school received an estimated 500 books and references. The books and legal periodicals will enable law students to have access to specialized and updated resources which are lacking in the law schools.

Component 3 – Broaden public awareness of Rule of Law and engagement with the justice sector

Under this component, PJEP is providing small grants and technical assistance to civil society organizations to build public awareness of legal rights and responsibilities, and enhance the public’s understanding of the justice system. The small grants program will assist in increasing the public’s engagement with the justice system and understanding of the Rule of Law more generally. PJEP will also assist in providing equipment and technical assistance to the HJC and MOJ in order to empower the Media Units’ outreach capabilities during and beyond the project life. Additionally, PJEP is helping the HJC, MOJ, and PJI to develop effective public outreach strategies and campaigns.

Key Result Area: Enhance HJC and MOJ public outreach capacities

Building the Capacity of the MOJ and HJC Media Units: This year, PJEP engaged a local company to conduct training on “Short Film Editing” for the HJC and MOJ Media Unit staff. The 10-session training enhanced the media capacities of staff who have been active in making short films, but relied on outside assistance to edit the final productions. This training enabled the media staff to not only produce the films but also to edit the final product.



HJC and MOJ media staff takes part in capacity building trainings

To mark the end of the “Short Film Editing” a graduation ceremony was held at the PJEP office on October 25, 2011 and was attended by the MOJ Director of Finance and Administration, the head of the MOJ Media Unit and PJEP’s COP. The MOJ Director of Finance and Administration and the head of the MOJ Media Unit spoke of the impact the training had on the participants and how the training will assist the HJC and MOJ staff to develop materials that will be used to produce films and photos for justice sector institutions. The ceremony ended with the participants receiving a certificate of completion. The graduation ceremony was filmed and the film was edited by the participants and broadcast on Palestine TV.

Furthermore, PJEP conducted “Filmmaking” training for five staff who took part in the “Short Film Editing” training earlier this year. The staff was trained to create quality videos in order to produce news stories and to begin filming in-house documentaries and videos that highlight the activities that the MOJ and HJC conduct. The in-house filming and editing will allow the staff to produce films and other media related documents without contracting outside sources as was done previously. The six-session training included both classroom and practical skills training. To acknowledge the achievement of the MOJ and HJC media unit staff, PJEP conducted a graduation ceremony at its office in Ramallah. The ceremony was attended by the HJC Chief of Court Administration, the head of the MOJ Planning Department, USAID’s PJEP COR, PJEP’s COP and DCOP. During the ceremony, three short films that were produced and edited by the trainees were showcased.



HJC Newsletter: Earlier this year, PJEP edited, translated, and printed the 7th edition of the HJC Quarterly Newsletter titled “Qada’una” (Our Justice System). 2500 copies in Arabic and another 500 in English were printed and distributed to court staff, stakeholders, CSOs and local news outlets. PJEP also assisted the HJC to produce the 8th edition of the quarterly. The 8th edition highlighted the HJC achievements and activities for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2012. The newsletters are used as a public outreach tool to inform the public and legal professionals of the HJC’s activities and service enhancements.

PJEP supported the production of the 7th and 8th HJC quarterly newsletters

HJC Annual Report: As requested by the HJC, PJEP printed 500 copies of the HJC 7th Annual Report.



The report includes the role of the HJC, the achievements made by the HJC, and the capacity building strategies the HJC is using to empower and improve the performance of the judicial and administrative staff. PJEP also translated the executive summary of the report from Arabic into English which was added to the report. The Annual Report was distributed during the HJC Annual Judicial Conference that was held on August 30-31, 2012 in Bethlehem.

PJEP supported the production of the HJC Annual Report

Equipment to the MOJ and HJC Media Center:



In its continued effort to support the MOJ and HJC Media Centers, PJEP delivered a video camera and media equipment to each department. This equipment was provided based on the evaluation assessment that was conducted by PJEP after the “Short –Film Editing” and “Filmmaking” trainings that PJEP provided to the media staff. The evaluation assessment results highlighted the lack of equipment at the units which made it difficult for the trainees to conduct filming or editing of its productions. PJEP is working with the MOJ and the HJC to assist in further developing the media capacity of the institutions.

PJEP provides media equipment to the MOJ and HJC

Key Result Area: Improve practical civic education in Palestinian communities and schools

Provide grants to raise awareness of the Rule of Law and human rights and promote civic education:



PJEP signs GIA with selected CSOs

Earlier this year, PJEP conducted a pre-award workshop for all potential CSO applicants to ensure that project and grant objectives were clear, and to explain the rules and regulations as well as the application submission procedures. After the workshop, potential CSOs submitted concept notes for review by PJEP. PJEP then short-listed 10 CSOs and requested them to submit full applications for review before a decision was made to select four grantees. The four CSOs selected to receive a grant were: Juhoud, El-Lid, Students’ Forum Institute, and Al Marsad – Arab World Democracy and Electoral Monitor.

Each of these CSOs was awarded an estimated \$25,000 grant.

PJEP then signed the Grant Implementation Agreements (GIAs) with El-Lid Charitable Society, Juhoud for Community and Rural Development, Students’ Forum Institute, and Al Marsad – Arab World Democracy and Electoral Monitor. A signing ceremony was conducted in PJEP’s office and both the COP and the General Directors of the CSOs signed the agreement. PJEP visited the awarded CSOs to discuss the grant implementation process and reporting requirements.

During the year, the selected CSOs completed their GIAs. Below is a description of each grant objective and activities implemented:

EL-Lid Charitable Society

This grant worked to increase trust in judicial institutions by broadening public awareness through quiz shows. The grantee conducted 20 quiz show competitions throughout the northern

West Bank. The quiz shows were used to enhance the understanding of a previously unclear legal framework, institutional roles and mandates as well as to increase awareness and understanding of the Rule of Law and legal procedures among marginalized populations including women, youth, people with disabilities, and rural populations. The quiz shows also enhanced awareness of the growing judicial system institutions and the Rule of Law that provide productive and effective alternatives to traditional tribal judicial practices. The competitions were broadcast on local TV stations in order to reach a wider audience. The winners of these competitions received a prize.

El-Lid contracted a legal expert who prepared the quiz show questions. The questions are related to several Rule of Law topics including awareness of Palestinian laws and the importance of respecting the Rule of Law. Also considered were basic judicial principles including litigation, the jurisdiction of the courts, awareness of citizens' rights in relation to issues like treatment during arrest, interrogation, the citizens' right to a fair trial and the enforcement of the court's rulings.

During the year, El-Lid conducted several quiz shows throughout the northern West Bank. The quiz show event was showcased in Salfit, Tulkrum, Nablus, Jenin, Qalqilia and Tubas. Following is a brief of each event:

- El-Lid conducted three quiz shows in Nablus and Tulkrum. The first quiz show event



Women take part in El-Lid's quiz show event in Nablus

took place at the Women Charitable Society in the town of Huwara in Nablus. 60 women attended the event and discussion focused on women's rights, inheritance, worker's rights and the role of courts to guarantee the rights of women. The second quiz show event was conducted at the Palestine Technical University - Khadouri in Tulkrum for university students. 65 female

and male students attended the show and the female team competed against the male team. The students were very engaged during the discussions and raised several questions in regards to the current operations of the justice system. Some of the students mentioned that many court decisions will not be enforced if they are related to cases against the Palestinian Authority or against influential people. The facilitator was able to address this statement and stressed the importance to the audience to trust the Rule of Law to work equally for all. The third quiz show event was conducted at Al-Jaroshia Village Charitable Society in Tulkrum with 40 female and male and 20 children attending the event. A female team and a male team competed against each other. The quiz show topics included the functions of the judicial authority and the various court levels in the West Bank, the legality of home searches and the legal procedures for arresting a person. Also included were the rights of citizens while they are under investigation. The discussion on the need for a legal warrant to search homes and private locations by the police and

security services was very engaging. A 10 year boy old asked the event facilitator if he could ask the police coming to his home without a legal search warrant to leave the premise if a search warrant was not presented. The facilitator said it is his right to object to the search if a legal search warrant was not presented.

- El-Lid conducted a quiz show in Beit Dajan Boy's school in Nablus. The quiz show targeted 80 students and teachers. The quiz show topics included the functions of the judicial, executive and legislative authorities, the difference between misdemeanor and felony crimes and the legality of home searches. Two teams were formed and competed against each other; the freedom team and the justice team. The facilitator highlighted the enthusiasm of the students and teachers and that many Rule of Law questions were raised during the competition.
- Several quiz shows were conducted in Al-Quds Open University in Salfit, Jenin, Tulkrum, Qalqilia and Tubas as well as one quiz show event at the Arab American University in Jenin. Over 400 female and male university students attended the quiz shows. The discussion during and after the events focused on judicial proceedings, the type of courts in the West Bank and the rights of prisoners under the law. Also discussed was the role of the public on how to achieve justice and the responsibilities of the PA in adopting the laws and enforcing the law. A lively discussion took place where the participants presented specific instances where they believed the law didn't apply in a specific case.
- El-Lid conducted quiz shows in the village of Ramin in Tulkrum targeting village council members, women and youth and at An Najah University in Nablus for the Hisham Hijjawi College of Technology students. In addition, El-Lid Society conducted a quiz show targeting women from the Askar Camp and surrounding villages and disabled students from the Al-Sheikh Zaied vocational rehabilitation center in Nablus. The quiz show topics for these events included:
 - Palestinian laws and the importance of respecting the Rule of Law
 - Basic judicial principles including litigation practices and the jurisdiction of the courts
 - Awareness of citizens' rights in relation to issues regarding treatment during arrest and interrogation
 - Citizens' right to a fair trial and the enforcement of the court's rulings
- A show was conducted in Qalqilia that included three representatives from the Cultural Graduate Forum and three representatives from the Qalqilia municipality who competed against each other. The facilitator, who is a legal expert, screened the questions for the quiz show participants to answer. El-Lid also conducted quiz shows in the towns of Bedi in Salfit, Naqoura and Al-Rawda College in Nablus. A quiz show event took place at Al-Quds Open University in Tulkrum and Askar Camp targeting women from the surrounding villages and Al-Sheikh Zaied Vocational Rehabilitation Center in Nablus targeting disabled students.

El-Lid broadcast the quiz show events on local TV stations and has also broadcast four TV advertisements asking the public their opinion on judicial issues and how the justice system works in Palestine. The purpose of the TV ads was to highlight the public's understanding of the

Rule of Law. El-Lid used these ads as a public outreach campaign to promote El-Lid and USAID's efforts to facilitate a better understanding of the Rule of Law to the public. Over 1,200 people participated in El-Lid's quiz show events. The shows were also posted on Facebook and Twitter.

In order to continue to work with the public and enhance the Rule of Law El-Lid is considering the idea of developing public law days in some locations in the northern part of the West Bank. The law days will include lawyers, human rights experts, and representatives of the justice sector who will meet with the public and provide consultation related to law and human rights issues without charging a fee.

Juhoud for Community and Rural Development

This grant aimed to promote an enhanced understanding of the Rule of Law along with a better recognition of how the justice system and its functions operate through a theater production. The grantee produced a Rule of Law play that was featured in six secondary schools in Tulkrum and Salfit. The goal of the activity is to teach youth to become aware of issues related to the justice system and become more involved in observing the Rule of Law.

Juhoud contracted Safar Theater Company to conduct the Rule of Law plays. Juhoud finalized the Rule of Law script using legal documents and topics that Juhoud and the MOJ approved for use in developing the play's script.

During the year, Juhoud along with the Ministry of Education (MOE) developed a schedule for



Safar Theater Company in order to present the Rule of Law play. Safar conducted four plays in the Tulkrum Governorate at the following schools: Kafr Zibad co-ed school, Kafr Jammal Secondary boys' school, Attil Secondary girls' school, and Dayr al-Ghusoun Secondary boys' school. Also included were Marda Secondary girls' school and Qeera Secondary co-ed school in the Salfit Governorate. Safar Theater presented the play, followed by a discussion on Rule of Law issues, for the students, teachers and school administration.

Students participate in Juhoud's activities

The play focused on the following issues:

- The importance of the Rule of Law and the need for citizens to solve problems and issues using the legal enforcement systems in place including the police and the courts
- The role of the courts and the lawyers during the litigation process
- The importance of enforcing the law without discrimination in all matters and the role of citizens to follow the laws already in place

PJEP attended the plays and noticed that the students and the school administration at the schools were very excited and engaged during the discussion that followed the show. A number of issues

were raised related to the role of the courts and the importance of enforcement of the law for all citizens without discrimination. The students requested more focused workshops on the mechanisms of accountability and law enforcement.

Juhoud concluded their project implementation by conducting two open day sessions at Marda Secondary girls' school and Qeera Secondary co-ed school in the Salfit Governorate. Also included were Kafr Jammal Secondary boy's school and Kafr Zibad co-ed school in Tulkrum. An estimated 500 female and male students from the schools and their families as well as representatives from the MOE took part in the open discussions that were conducted after the Rule of Law play. A court simulation was also conducted and students were able to witness firsthand how the court system works. In addition, students presented their Rule of Law writing stories that included personal stories regarding their experiences with the law and the justice system. Five winners were chosen to receive an award for their writing pieces: two female students from Marda Secondary girls' school; one male student from Qeera Secondary co-ed school; one male student from Kafr Jammal Secondary boys' school; and one female from Kafr Zibad co-ed school.

Students' Forum Institute

This grant raised awareness of the concept of the Rule of Law among school-aged students in the Bethlehem area. The grantee trained 17 university students on various Rule of Law topics who in turn trained 8th and 9th grade students. The objective was to increase the students' civic participation and academic achievement in order to enhance the understanding of the Rule of Law among students at universities and schools.

SFI trained 17 university students, 10 males and 7 females, on various Rule of Law topics, including how the justice sector works in Palestine, the benefits of volunteerism, and civic participation and leadership. The training enabled the university students to better understand the concept and value of the Rule of Law in Palestinian society, in addition to understanding the role of the judicial institutions. The university students then trained 207 8th and 9th grade students, 62 males and 145 females, from six public schools in the Bethlehem Governorate. The schools that participated in SFI's activities were Janata, Beit Sahour, Bethlehem, Al-Obaiat, Al-Doha and Al-Khader. The trainings consisted of open discussions led by the university students, that incorporated police officers and representatives from the Palestinian Human Rights Commission. The open discussions focused on the protection of human rights, the rights of citizens to seek justice and how to file a complaint to the appropriate authorities.

In order to achieve the objective and enhance the students' engagement with the justice intuitions, SFI organized field project activities including a visit to the Bethlehem police station and courthouse and a tree planting event with the police officers and the court staff. These activities allowed the students to receive firsthand experience of how law enforcement officers and court staff work to protect the public. The tree planting event opened the door of communication between the students, the police officers and court staff. Students learned that they could easily approach law enforcement officers and that the officers serve to help the public.



SFI conducts a tree planting event with students and police officers in Bethlehem

The courthouse visit and tree planting event was highlighted by many media outlets including Mix Satellite Channel, Bethlehem TV and Ma'an news. Below are links to their stories:

<http://www.palpolice.ps/ar/?p=56716>

<http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=481857&MARK>

<http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=475407&MARK=%D9%85%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%82%D9%89%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A8%D8%A9>

<http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=475407&MARK=%D9%85%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%82%D9%89%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A8%D8%A9>

SFI also conducted IT training in the six schools. The training targeted 207 students and focused on how to use the computer to write letters. The students wrote letters about the Rule of Law and what it means to them. The letters were sent by the students via email to friends and family. A craft workshop led by SFI brought the 207 students together. During the workshop the students designed plaques using wood panels with messages related to the Rule of Law printed on them. The students distributed the plaques to the community.

SFI reported that the teachers, students, and family members acknowledged they have a greater understanding of the concept of the Rule of Law and a better perception of the justice sector and relevant institutions. During the SFI grant closing event a university student who presented a speech stated, “the tree planting event helped me strengthen my, and other students’, relationship with the police officers and court staff and also encouraged us to volunteer and get more involved in community work.” The closing event titled “Students Speak Out: Promoting the Rule of Law in Schools through Participation in Service Learning” was held at the Bethlehem Hotel. All the university students and school students from the six targeted schools in addition to representatives from each school, police and courts, the Ministry of Education and PJEP staff attended the closing event. The students all receive certificates that acknowledge their participation in the SFI activities.

The students expressed interest in continuing to volunteer with SFI and help educate other students on issues related to the Rule of Law. SFI has acknowledged the students’ interest to volunteer with them and will keep in contact with the students in order to have them assist in implementing other Rule of Law activities.

Al Marsad – Arab World Democracy and Electoral Monitor

The grantee developed a detailed manual for teachers about the Rule of Law. MOE supervisors and teachers received training on the manual. 1200 schools will receive the manual once it is finalized. The goal of this activity is to enhance the teachers’ knowledge of Rule of Law concepts and to encourage the Ministry of Education to adopt the manual of the Rule of Law for further use in the schools.

Al-Marsad completed developing the teachers Rule of Law manual. The manual included a general outline, methods and techniques to be used when teaching Rule of Law in the classroom. Topics in the manual included how the court system works, human rights law, and the various judicial branches that exist in the judiciary.



Teachers taking part in Rule of Law training

In addition, Al-Marsad conducted training for 20 supervisors from the MOE representing all governorates throughout the West Bank. Al-Marsad's consultant along with experts from the

MOE trained the supervisors on the Rule of Law teacher's manual. The trained supervisors will in turn use the manual to train social studies teachers who will use the manual as a guide to teach the Rule of Law in the classrooms with students. One of the supervisors who took part in the training mentioned that the manual is a very important tool for raising the awareness of public school students on Rule of Law issues. He went on to say the manual will help to enhance respect for the law in the Palestinian society and recommended disseminating the manual to private schools.

Work with journalists and media outlets to expand accurate coverage of the Rule of Law issues:



PJEP's grant signing ceremony with selected CSOs

During the year, PJEP awarded three grants, totaling \$75,000, to Ma'an Network, Internews Network and Amin Media Network (Amin). A grant signing ceremony took place at PJEP's office with PJEP's COP and DCOP attending. These grants are designed to support the CSOs activities to increase the public's confidence in the justice system. The activities under these grants aim to bridge the gap between judicial institutions and the public by raising public awareness of the justice sector and working with journalists and media outlets to expand accurate coverage of Rule of Law issues. The objective will be met by supporting outreach activities of the justice sector institutions.

The signing ceremony event was broadcast on Wattan TV and posted on the Ma'an Network and PJEP's websites:

- http://wattan.tv/hp_details.cfm?id=a1711299a2892066&c_id=11
- [http://www.maanews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=495120.](http://www.maanews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=495120)
- www.wbg-pjep.com

Below are the objectives of each grant:

Ma'an Network will work to enhance the public's knowledge and understanding of the Rule of Law through the development of a courtroom television series. The series will focus on how judicial proceedings are conducted in the West Bank. Ma'an will produce 13 episodes using real cases provided by the HJC. Ma'an will write the scripts with the HJC, MOJ and PJEP approving the content before production begins. Ma'an will broadcast the series in the West Bank/Gaza and will also reach viewers across the Middle East.

Currently, Ma'an Network completed filming three episodes of the court room drama series. The 13 episode series titled Al Mahkama (the court) will help enhance the public's knowledge and understanding of the Rule of Law. The court room television series will broadcast throughout the West Bank. The series will focus on how judicial proceedings are conducted in the West Bank and will broadcast in the coming months.

Internews Network will focus on building the capacity of journalists in order to provide accurate and informative news coverage on the Rule of Law. Internews will train 20 journalists on Rule of Law issues including how the justice system works. The trained journalists will produce radio and TV spots that will be broadcast through Jussor Network in the West Bank and Gaza. The radio and TV spots will also be used by CSOs who specialize in providing Rule of Law activities in the West Bank and Gaza.



Grantee Internews trainings journalists on Rule of Law topics

During the year, Internews conducted a series of one-day trainings that examined specific laws and the role of the judicial system for journalists from several media outlets in the West Bank. The trainings that were conducted by lawyers and CSO representatives included the rights of women, traffic law, labor law and election law. In addition, the journalists began developing and producing radio and TV spots that focus on the training topics mentioned. The radio and TV spots will air on Jussor Network in the coming

months.

Amin Media Network will conduct specialized training for eight journalists on media production and how to present news coverage in the media related to the High Court of Justice and the Court of Cassation. After the training the journalists will begin an internship with Amin. The internship will include working in the field, visiting courts, hearing case sessions and developing news stories as well as presenting the procedures of the High Court and the Court of Cassation. The overall objective of the grant is to build the capacity of the journalists so they are better qualified and prepared to cover judicial sector news.

During the year, Amin completed the trainings on media production and how to present news



Journalists take part in Rule of Law training

coverage in the media related to the High Court and the Cassation Court. The 12 day training targeted eight journalists from different media outlets. Amin organized visits for the journalists to the High Court, the Cassation Court, and the HJC Media Center. As part of the assignment, the trainees have begun the internship program at Amin Network for three months in order to practice the skills they have gained in the trainings.

Awarding Additional Grants: During the year, PJEP released the Request for Application (RFA) for the third round of the grant selection process and conducted an orientation session for 25 CSOs that were interested in submitting a grant concept paper. During the orientation session, a presentation of PJEP's goals and objectives were highlighted. PJEP also explained the procedures of how to apply for the grant and answered questions regarding the grant process and USAID and U.S. Government regulations governing grants under contracts.

PJEP then selected nine CSOs to submit full grant applications. PJEP evaluated the applications and recommended the following seven CSOs to receive a grant: Ma'an Network, Students' Forum Institute (SFI), Freedom Forum Palestine (FFP), Sharek Youth Forum (SYF), Institute of Modern Media (IMM), Arab world Democracy and Electoral Monitor (Al Marsad) and Wattan TV who submitted two grant applications. Currently, PJEP is awaiting technical approval for the recommended CSOs before issuing the grant awards.

The aim of the grants program is to increase the public's confidence in the justice system and to bridge the gap between the judicial institutions and the public through CSOs as well as raise the public's awareness of the services the justice sector provides. The selected CSOs will also support the justice sector institutions' various outreach activities in the communities.

Key Result Area: Increase engagement and public awareness of key justice sector stakeholders
Judicial Media Conference: PJEP sponsored the first ever Judicial Media Conference at the



Attendees at the Judicial Media Conference sponsored by PJEP

Jericho Intercontinental Hotel on June 17-19, 2012. The three-day conference was hosted by the High Judicial Council (HJC), the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the Public Prosecutions Office and Amin News Network Agency. Attendees included the Chief Justice, the newly appointed Minister of Justice, USAID’s Mission Director as well as USAID PJEP’s COR and PJEP’s COP. Participants included representatives of the Sharia court, the Military court and the Anti-Corruption court as well as journalists and CSOs. During the opening

session of the conference the Chief Justice thanked USAID/PJEP for hosting this event and highlighted the importance of journalists’ understanding of legal issues when reporting news on the judiciary. The USAID Mission Director stated that there would be support to promote future endeavors that will complement the justice sector and the media to work together.

The conference served as an opportunity for justice sector actors and journalists to come together to discuss common challenges and to produce a code of conduct on how to cover judicial news without jeopardizing the integrity of the law and preserving freedom of expression. During the conference the newly appointed Minister of Justice addressed policy issues that opened a dialogue of discussion with the various justice sector institutions. Discussions focused on the relationship between the justice sector intuitions and the media. Both bodies addressed the long-standing relationship gap that must be narrowed in order to properly deliver justice sector related news that is vital in keeping the Palestinian public aware of Rule of Law issues. Specific recommendations were developed in order to strengthen the relationship between the two parties.

Another major highlight of the conference was the announcement from the HJC to select specialized judges who are qualified to review and hear cases brought to the court regarding journalists’ conduct. By selecting a group of qualified judges to review such cases the HJC seeks to protect freedom of expression and journalists’ right to produce quality news stories without fear.



JRO Campaign: This year, PJEP and the MOJ launched the JRO campaign for one month. The goal of the campaign was to highlight and provide information on the services the MOJ’s JRO offers to the public as well as highlight the various locations of the JRO. JRO campaign ads were aired during peak hours on several local and national radio stations including Al-Mahabbah (Nablus), Ajyal (National), Bethlehem 2000 (South), and Al-Balad (Northern West Bank). Campaign ads were also published in Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam newspapers as well as Ma’an website.

PJEP re-ran the MOJ JRO campaign ad mid-year. This occurred after the Palestinian Authority issued a decision to no longer request security clearances as a prerequisite for employment in a public position or to obtain a work permit. The Palestinian Authority instead endorsed the non-conviction certificate that is obtained at the MOJ Justice Record Office (JRO) as an alternative to the security clearance.

MOJ Public Outreach - Authentication Department (AD) Campaign: During the year, PJEP launched the AD campaign for the MOJ. The campaign message focused on the procedures and steps needed to receive services and the various West Bank locations where the AD conducts services. The message also focused on the type of services available at the department. The campaign ads were posted in local newspapers, on Ma'an's website, and the campaign message was broadcast on local radio stations. The campaign is part of the MOJ's outreach activities to educate the public on the role of the MOJ.

Court Files Radio Series: During this year, the HJC approved the development of a radio series to broadcast case episodes which are drawn from real court cases. PJEP worked with the HJC to



develop the radio episodes that served as a creative communication tool that contributed to the public understanding of legal issues and awareness of the court system. PJEP aired fifteen radio episodes during the year. The episodes aired on Raya FM on Sunday at 12:15 pm and again aired four days later at 6 pm. The radio episodes were advertised in local newspapers, on Raya's Facebook page and website, and on the HJC website. The series included the following episodes: "Honor Killing", "A Ponzi Scheme", "Youth Crime", "A Home Robbery Case", "A Purchase Dispute", "Child Custody Case", "Drug Production and Use", "Decree to regulate the use of Government Cars", "Insurance Claims", "An Illegal-Occupancy", "A Blackmail Case", "A Rape Case", "A Counterfeit Case", "Inheritance Claims" and "A Child Molestation Case".

Radio Series Campaign

PJEP is currently planning to produce a second phase of the radio series. PJEP is working with the HJC to produce an additional 15 episodes which will be aired in the coming months.

HJC Informational and Instructional Signage: PJEP is continuing to work with the HJC to develop informational and instructional signage that will inform the public of essential information that would save time and effort when visiting the courts. The HJC is currently finalizing the content of the signage. Once the final content is approved by the HJC, PJEP will begin to produce the signage. The signage will be placed in all West Bank courts.

Component 4 – Use windows of opportunity to facilitate the development of legal, institutional, and policy frameworks that enhance judicial independence and justice sector coordination.

Key Result Area: Increase justice sector strategic planning and coordination

Build the Capacity of the State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau (SAACB): At the end of



PJEP conducts a needs assessment for SAACB

the year PJEP conducted a meeting with the SAACB upon request by USAID. The purpose of the meeting was to examine possible assistance that PJEP can provide the SAACB. The SAACB Director explained the work of the institution including their efforts to enhance good governance and promoting the principles of the Rule of Law. The institution is

an independent legal entity and is the highest audit institution in Palestine. The Director also explained

that the SAACB works to guarantee that its objectives are being met according to plans, regulations, instructions and standards. In addition, the SAACB is a fundamental tool for democracy in Palestine and has a crucial role in reinforcing the public sector's performance and reiterating the principles of good governance, transparency, integrity and accountability.

As a result of the meeting, possible PJEP assistance in FY 2013 could include the following:

- Organizing SAACB's second annual conference in April, 2013. The conference will take place at the Moevenpick in Ramallah for two days. An estimated 200 participants are expected to attend the conference
- Building SAACB's capacity through targeted trainings
- Expanding SAACB's outreach and public relations activities

Summary of Planned Activities for Year 3

Planned activities for Year 3 include:

Component 1 Enhance accessibility and efficiency of targeted justice sector institutions

- Upgrade West Bank courts
- Support the IT upgrades for the HJC, MOJ and PJI
- Support data entry and document scanning at the MOJ and HJC
- Provide a Case Management consultant to assist the HJC to improve case management in the courts
- Conduct training on Administrative Law for MOJ staff
- Support the JLC as a permanent body within the MOJ structure
- Strengthen the justice institutions' and courts' capacities through providing specialists in the Research Center and the Technical Office.
- Support the Ramallah Conciliation Court renovation
- Support the HJC 6th Annual Judicial Conference
- Support the Court Administration Conference
- Conduct a study tour for court staff

Component 2 Strengthen capacity and credibility of justice sector professionals

- Conduct training for judges on Juvenile Justice, Human Rights, Judicial Mediation, and other specialized subjects
- Create/upgrade legal clinics and computer labs for selected law schools
- Send a Palestinian team to participate at the international Jessup Moot Court Competition in Washington D.C.
- Continue course development for the PJI
- Provide a legal researcher to assist the PJI
- Develop legal research papers for the HJC Technical Office
- Conduct a study tour for judges
- Publish court unified procedures manuals
- Train court staff, PJI staff and HJC Training Department staff
- Train HJC, PJI and MOJ Planning and Management staff on project management cycle and proposal writing
- Training HJC and MOJ Human Resource staff
- Train MOJ and other ministries' legal advisors
- Develop and publish a manual on how to draft administrative law decisions, and train relevant government legal advisors in its use
- Conduct a study tour for Senior Court Administration staff
- Conduct several training workshops for the HJC Research Unit staff
- Develop a specialized course in international law for the Justice Department
- Build the capacity of the Arbitration Department
- Develop several course manuals for law schools
- Develop an on-line course for law schools
- Provide the partnering law schools with Adalah database (laws and precedents)

- Conduct training for law professors and law students on adult education methodology and computer skills
- Conduct Moot Court Competitions for law students from the partnering law schools
- Upgrade the partnering law schools facilities
- Provide legal books and references to the selected law schools
- Conduct a Practical Legal Education Conference

Component 3 Broaden public awareness of Rule of Law and engagement with justice sector

- Award an estimated 10 grants to qualified CSOs, media outlets, universities, and the private sector
- Publish the HJC Quarterly Newsletter
- Support the Second Judicial Media Conference
- Conduct spokesperson and media training services for MOJ, PJI and HJC staff
- Assist the HJC and MOJ to produce short outreach documentaries
- Conduct HJC and MOJ outreach campaigns
- Develop the signage for the MOJ and HJC
- Develop TV productions for the MOJ and the HJC
- Work with journalists and media outlets to support their ability to accurately cover news about rule of law issues

Component 4 – Use windows of opportunity to facilitate the development of legal, institutional, and policy frameworks that enhance judicial independence and justice sector coordination

- Build the capacity of the SAACB

Monitoring and Evaluation

PJEP developed a Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) which aims to measure progress in the program's key result areas. The following matrix presents the indicators, baselines, targets set and actual results for Year 2.

PMP Indicator Results

Result	Indicator	Target FY 2012	Actual FY 2012
<i>Program Goal: Support Palestinian efforts to improve performance and strengthen democratic practices of public sector institutions and non-state actors</i>			
1.Public confidence in justice system improved	Percent of public expressing confidence in the justice system ¹	3.3	n/a
<p>Outcome: Early in the project it was agreed that PJEP would measure this indicator using the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) public survey opinion that is scheduled to be conducted in years 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014. The UNDP public survey for 2012 was delayed and surveying will be conducted in November 2012. For this reason PJEP was unable to report on this indicator for FY12.</p> <p><i>PIR 1: Credibility and efficiency of targeted justice sector institutions enhanced</i></p>			
1.1 Courts operate more efficiently	No. of USG-assisted courts with improved case management* ²	n/a	n/a
1.2 Legal institutions and associations operate more effectively	Number of legal institutions and associations supported by USG assistance*	4	8
<p>Outcome: With the funding issues resolved in mid-year and with the vetting approvals of the 5 law schools PJEP exceeded the targeted number for FY12. During the year, PJEP provided assistance to the Ministry of Justice, the High Judicial Council, the Palestinian Judicial Institute as well as Al Ahliya, Hebron, An Najah, Al Quds, and Modern College law schools.</p>			
1.3 Justice institution divisions provide more satisfactory public services	Percent change of justice institution users expressing confidence in the particular institution or division used	62% before upgrade +5%	67.9% after upgrades +5.9%
<p>Outcome: PJEP exceeded the target number for FY12. PJEP subcontracted Creative Business Solutions (CBS) to conduct the perception satisfaction survey. CBS conducted the survey by using a questionnaire and asking open ended questions to a representative sample of court/institution users about their satisfaction with the services provided. CBS conducted both a pre-survey and a post-survey in the courts of Tulkram, Salfit, Hebron, Dura, Jericho, and the Ministry of Justice office in Nablus. Courts users were surveyed after receiving a service from the following court divisions the Notary Public, Civil Judgment and Notification departments and the Court Registry office. Customers of the MOJ's Justice Record Office and the Authentication department were surveyed after receiving their services. The pre-</p>			

¹ Baseline number taken from UNDP 2011 survey of public opinion on the justice sector, Table 44, change in rating on a scale of 1 to 5.

² Indicator 1.1 will be reported in FY 11 only. Indicator 1.2 will replace indicator 1.1 because indicator 1.2 captures PJEP's activity implementation that will be conducted during the life of the project.

Result	Indicator	Target FY 2012	Actual FY 2012
survey was conducted in April, 2012 before any support was given and the results showed a 62% satisfaction in the services received. The post-survey was conducted in September, 2012 after PJEP provided support that included equipment and furniture upgrades, signage placement throughout the courts and MOJ and working with the courts and MOJ to provide tools to help clean these facilities. The post-survey results show an increase of 5.9% satisfaction in the services received.			
1.4 Justice sector institutions have necessary resources for operations	Number of divisions that receive improvements of equipment, furniture, or refurbishment.	3	8
Outcome: PJEP exceeded the targeted number for FY12. With funding re-instated PJEP was able to work with more divisions. PJEP delivered equipment and furniture to the MOJ's Justice Record Office in Tubas and Nablus and the Legal Affairs Department, the Justice Information Center and the Joint Legal Committee office at the new Ramallah MOJ building. In addition, PJEP provided equipment and furniture the Civil Judgment, Notary Public, and Notification Departments as well as the Court Registry offices in Hebron, Dora, Tulkrum, Tubas and Nablus.			
1.5 Improved services builds trust and respect for the MOJ	Percent change in number of transactions completed per day in a particular institution or division	+5%	+48%
Outcome: PJEP collected data regarding the number of transactions in April, 2012, months before any upgrades were conducted in the Dora, Tulkrum, Nablus and Hebron courts as well as the MOJ's Justice Record and Authentication departments in Nablus. The total number of transactions at this time was 940. PJEP then collected data regarding the number of transactions in September, 2012 months after PJEP completed the upgrades to these divisions. The total number of transaction after the upgrades was 1392. Based on these results the number of transaction increased by 48%. PJEP was able to exceed the targeted number for this fiscal year.			
<i>PIR 2: Capacity and Credibility of justice sector professionals strengthened</i>			
2.1 Law students capacity increased	Percent of students from law schools receiving USG assistance participating in practical skills training	20%	20%
Outcome: PJEP was able to meet its target for FY12. PJEP conducted a series of moot court trainings to law school students. PJEP then conducted local moot competitions at Al Ahliya, Hebron, Al Quds and An Najah Universities. Qualified law students from each school participated in the local competition. PJEP also conducted a national moot court competition which included the winners of the local competition. Hundreds of law students attended the competition which was also instructional for the attendees on how to present oral arguments in a court room; students that attended the competition received a classroom attendance credit.			

Result	Indicator	Target FY 2012	Actual FY 2012
2.2 Trainings conducted to provide sustainability	Percent of those trained or those whose supervisors report that training helped improve how they did their job*	20%	53%
<p>Outcome: PJEP exceeded the target number for FY12. PJEP's Senior Training Specialist conducted a pre-evaluation assessment and a post-evaluation assessment to measure the impact of the trainings PJEP provided to the court staff and law students. PJEP assessed trainees who participated in the basic computer skills (ICDL) training, the Training of Trainers (TOT) program and the moot court training. A pre-evaluation assessment was conducted at the start of each of these trainings and a post-evaluation assessment was conducted 3-6 months after the training was completed. The results indicated that 53% of those trained said the training helped improve how they did their job. Court staff who took part the basic computer skills training were able to implement the skills they learned including how to use computer functions. The training also focused on teaching the court staff how to use Microsoft Word and Excel programs. Currently, all the trainees who took part in the TOT program are providing training to other court staff, three months after completing the TOT program. The law students who took part in the moot court training are using the skills they learned to conduct debates and therefore are better prepared to present oral arguments in a courtroom.</p>			
2.3 Courses developed to increase the knowledge and skills of justice sector actors	Number of new legal courses or curricula developed with USG assistance*	2	2
<p>Outcome: PJEP was able to meet its target for FY12. PJEP printed and assisted with the development of the Judicial Ethics course material that will be added to the Palestinian Judicial Institutes (PJI) Diploma Judicial Studies (DJS) program. PJEP also produced and published the Civil Law course for the PJI DJS program.</p>			
2.4 Capacity of justice sector professionals increased	Number of justice sector personnel that received USG training, disaggregated by gender*	50	362
(2.4a) Capacity of justice sector professionals increased	Number of men justice sector personnel that received USG training*	30	255
(2.4b) Capacity of justice sector professionals increased	Number of women justice sector personnel that received USG training*	20	107
<p>Outcome: PJEP exceeded the target number for FY12. When determining the number of trainees for this indicator a congressional hold on funds was implemented so the targeted number was based on the revision of the work plan due to the funding hold. But in May, 2012 the hold was lifted and PJEP was able to implement all of its original planned training activities thus exceeding the targeted number for FY12. During the year, PJEP conducted keyboarding training, basic computer skills training (ICDL) and English language training for MOJ and HJC staff. Training for judges included land settlement law training, insurance law training and judicial settlement training. PJEP also conducted the Training of Trainers (TOT) program for court staff, PJI and the HJC Training Department staff. In addition, PJEP</p>			

Result	Indicator	Target FY 2012	Actual FY 2012
conducted a film-editing training and a film-making training for the MOJ and HJC Media Unit staff.			
<i>PIR 3: Public awareness of Rule of Law and engagement with justice sector institutions broadened</i>			
3.1 Capacity of justice sector institutions' public awareness divisions increased	Number of justice sector related public outreach activities conducted with USG assistance ³	n/a	n/a
3.2 Capacity of justice sector institutions' public awareness divisions increased	Number of USG-assisted campaigns and programs to enhance public understanding, NGO support and media coverage of judicial independence and accountability *	3	4
Outcome: PJEP exceeded the target number for FY12. During the year PJEP conducted the Justice Record Office and Authentication Department campaign for the Ministry of Justice. The campaigns highlighted the services and location of the JRO and Authentication Department. PJEP also conducted the radio series campaign. The fifteen episode series was used as a creative communication tool that contributed to the public understanding of legal issues and awareness of the court system. In addition, PJEP conducted the Judicial Media Conference which brought together justice sector actors and the media. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the challenges and to produce a code of conduct on how to cover judicial news without jeopardizing the integrity of the law yet preserving freedom of expression.			
3.3 Increased capacity of civil society to work with the public	Number of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) receiving USG Assistance engaged in advocacy interventions*	4	7
Outcome: With the funding issues resolved in mid-year, PJEP was able to award a total of 7 grants to CSOs. PJEP awarded grants to the following CSOs Students' Forum Institute, Juhoud for Community and Rural Development, El-Lid Charitable Society, Al Marsad – Arab World Democracy and Electoral Monitor, Amin Media Network, Internews Network and Ma'an Network.			
3.4 Increased public awareness of the role of the MOJ and judges	Number of justice sector materials/publication produced with PJEP support ⁴	n/a	n/a
3.5 Increased public awareness of the role of the MOJ and	Percent of public expressing awareness of the role of the justice system in serving citizens	25%	n/a

³ This indicator will be reported in FY 11 only. Indicator 3.2 will replace indicator 3.1 because indicator 3.2 is a USAID Operational Indicator and captures PJEP's activity implementation that will be conducted during the life of the project.

⁴ Indicator 3.4 will be reported in FY 11 only. Indicator 3.4 will replace indicator 3.5 because indicator 3.5 captures PJEP's activity implementation that will be conducted during the life of the project.

Result	Indicator	Target FY 2012	Actual FY 2012
judges			
<p>Outcome: Early in the project it was agreed that PJEP would measure this indicator using the UNDP public survey opinion that are scheduled to be conducted in year 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014. The UNDP public survey for 2012 was delayed and surveying will be conducted in November 2012. For this reason PJEP was unable to report on this indicator for FY12.</p>			

* = USAID Standard Indicator