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WEST BANK/GAZA

QUARTERLY REPORT #1

Palestinian Justice Enhancement Program

Task order 263-I-03-06-00018-00

1 January to 30 March 2011

1 May 2011

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Chemonics International Inc.

PALESTINIAN JUSTICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

QUARTERLY REPORT #1 1 JANUARY TO 30 MARCH 2011¹

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¹ Technically, the start date of the project is 29 Dec 2010, when the protest was denied, or 30 Dec 2010, when Chemonics was notified that implementation could begin. For convenience, PJEP will report based on a start date of 1 January 2011.

Executive summary

In the first quarter, the project focused its efforts on startup issues, including recruitment, workplan finalization, and administrative issues. PJEP conducted a startup workshop, found temporary office space, and leased a vehicle and temporary office furniture. Staff conducted well over a hundred interviews, but found that suitable candidates were few and far between. The project proposed an alternative organizational chart for the project, and devoted considerable energy to working out staff sharing arrangements with ICI. The COP met with counterparts and other donors, and produced several iterations of the draft workplan. The project also completed and submitted a gender strategy and grants manual.

What's New

Not applicable.

Implementation issues

Minister of Justice

On 14 February 2011, the Prime Minister dissolved the Cabinet. The various Ministers continued in office pending appointment of a new Cabinet. Despite legal deadlines, this did not happen during the quarter. The Minister of Justice was expected to be replaced.

Milestone summary

Not applicable.

Administrative

Startup

Chemonics was officially notified on 30 December 2010 that implementation could begin. Chemonics fielded a startup team of Peggy Ochandarena, Director; Natalie Eft, Associate; and Farah Mahesri startup specialist. The team arrived in late January, and began work that included: meeting with USAID, counterparts, and donors; registering the project; arranging temporary office space; finding permanent office space; leasing a vehicle; and leasing temporary furniture and equipment.

The COP arrived on 28 Jan 2011. PJEP held a one-week startup workshop from 30 January to 3 February. Also during that week, the COP met with USAID and was introduced to key counterparts. The COP and/or Ms. Ochandarena also met with other key donors from 30 January to 10 February.

Communications

The project developed fact sheets for the overall project and for each of the three main components by mid-February.

Recruitment

Recruitment for the project has been slow. Some initially hired staff chose not to stay, or had their salary rates disapproved. Others were not available to begin immediately, but were scheduled to join the project in April. One staff person scheduled to begin in March was delayed by some weeks due to family emergencies.

Despite these setbacks, the project continued a steady recruiting effort. By the end of March, the Chief of Party personally had conducted at least 27 second interviews.² The project has found it difficult to find truly qualified people who meet project requirements and are likely to pass muster with USAID.

Staff sharing

At the request of USAID/West Bank and Gaza Mission, Chemonics International has explored cost-savings through collaboration among its various projects located in Ramallah. Chemonics also submitted to USAID a concept paper outlining proposed ways that synergies

² By mid-April, the project had conducted between 100 and 150 interviews at a minimum.

may be developed between its various projects. On 25 March 2011, PJEP submitted a revised organizational chart reflecting staff sharing with the Investment Climate Improvement (ICI) project. Though the chart has not yet been approved, PJEP has operated on the assumption that staff sharing will occur in one form or another.

PJEP's proposed subcontract with Massar has also not been approved. If the Massar subcontract is not approved, staff sharing with ICI will be substantially complicated, since most staff to be shared on the ICI side are Massar staff.

Deliverables

Workplan

PJEP submitted an initial workplan and performance monitoring plan on time on 14 February 2011. Based on comment from USAID and new request documents from MOJ and HJC,³ the project refined the workplan, and submitted an improved version on 20 March 2011.⁴

Gender strategy

PJEP submitted its gender strategy on 14 February 2011.

Grants manual

PJEP submitted its grants manual on 14 March 2011.

Component 1 – Justice Sector Institutions

Early activities

In an effort to move implementation forward even in advance of workplan approval, PJEP proposed advance approval of eight specific activities in late February.

Component 2 – Training Legal Professionals

Component 3 – Public Awareness and Engagement

Component 4 – Windows of Opportunity

Aqaba workshop

PJEP began the planning process for a high level justice retreat, bringing together the Chief Justice, the Minister of Justice, and the Attorney General. The proposed retreat will allow these key justice sector leaders to meet in a congenial, neutral setting to discuss the confusion that currently exists about the appropriate role of each organization. The retreat will also be attended by the Deputy Minister of Justice, who has played a major role in convening the leadership meetings, and by the President's Legal Advisor. The retreat, to take place 27 March – 2 May,⁵ is intended to result in a Memorandum of Understanding resolving major issues, to be presented to the President.

³ Received on or after 17 March 2011.

⁴ Additional versions were submitted on 1 and 7 April, with the workplan approved on 12 April.

⁵ This was postponed in late April.

PMP indicator update

The workplan and PMP were approved after the end of the quarter. PJEP will soon start work to develop baselines for the PMP indicators. Because many of the high level indicators will be based on surveys that also serve major counterparts, PJEP will work with the counterparts and other donors to develop survey materials.

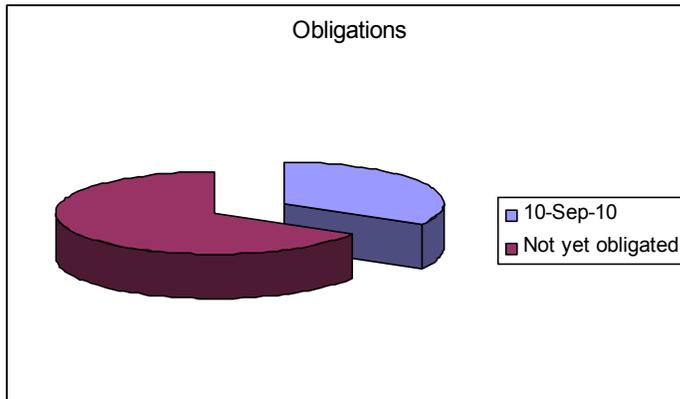
| Level/# | Indicator | Baseline | Target | End of Quarter |
|-------------|--|----------|--------|----------------|
| Project | | | | |
| 1 | Percent increase in public understanding and appreciation of justice system. | | | |
| Component 1 | | | | |
| 2 | Percent public confidence in justice system | | | |
| 3 | Percent public trust in judges/courts | | | |
| 4 | Percent of media saying access to court information has improved. | | | |
| 6 | Percent public satisfaction with MOJ services | | | |
| 7 | Percent increase in public understanding and appreciation of justice system. | | | |
| Component 2 | | | | |
| 8 | Percent court users satisfaction with justice system | | | |
| 9 | Percent of judges and court staff satisfied with PJI training systems | | | |
| 10 | Percent of judges and court staff satisfied with specific courses | | | |
| 11 | Percent of students receiving practical skills training | | | |
| 12 | Number of law students, lawyers, judges, prosecutors, court personnel or police benefiting from improved teaching facilities and curricula; | | | |
| 13 | Number of justice sector personnel that received USG training, disaggregated by gender; | | | |
| 14 | Number of new legal courses or curricula developed with USG assistance; | | | |
| Component 3 | | | | |
| 3 | Percent general public satisfaction with justice system. | | | |
| 3 | Number of persons receiving information about justice system | | | |
| 3 | Percent increase in quality of justice system coverage. Number of campaigns supported by USG to foster public awareness respect for the rule of law | | | |

Financial summary

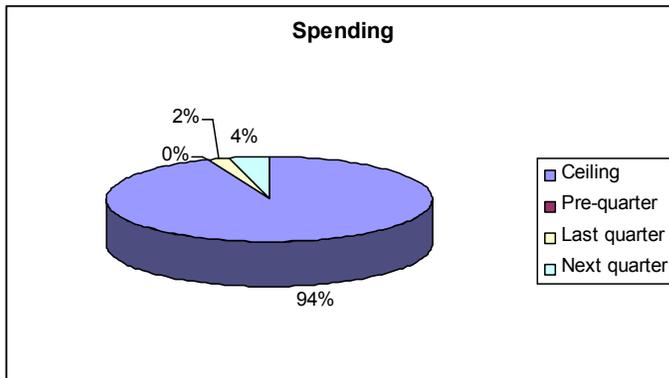
Financial data

| Ceiling | Obligated | Pre-quarter | Quarter 1 | Next quarter ⁶ |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| \$14,994,749 | \$5,000,000 | \$0 | \$379,361 | \$617,561 |

Obligations



Spending



⁶ Estimate only.