



USAID | **WEST BANK/GAZA**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

QUARTERLY REPORT #2

Palestinian Justice Enhancement Program
Task order 263-I-03-06-00018-00

1 April to 30 June 2011

PALESTINIAN JUSTICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

QUARTERLY REPORT #2 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2011

Contents

PALESTINIAN JUSTICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.....	2
QUARTERLY REPORT #2 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2011	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	3
WHAT'S NEW.....	4
EVENTS	4
IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES.....	4
ACTIVITY SUMMARY	5
COMPONENT 1.....	5
COMPONENT 2.....	5
COMPONENT 3.....	5
COMPONENT 1 – JUSTICE SECTOR INSTITUTIONS	6
HIGH JUDICIAL COUNCIL (HJC).....	6
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE (MOJ).....	7
COMPONENT 2 – TRAINING LEGAL PROFESSIONALS	7
PALESTINIAN JUDICIAL INSTITUTE (PJI)	7
UNIVERSITIES.....	8
COMPONENT 3 – PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT	9
PUBLIC AWARENESS	9
GRANTS	9
COMPONENT 4 – WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY	9
MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....	11
PMP INDICATOR UPDATE	11
FINANCIAL SUMMARY.....	12
SPENDING	12
OBLIGATIONS.....	12
SPENDING	12

Executive summary

PJEP used Quarter 2 to largely complete administrative work for the project. Highlights included approval of the project workplan, moving into permanent office space, identifying and preparing for activities, and identifying staff for most positions.



Dr. Bashir and the Palestinian Legal Advisor facilitate the “Reorganizing the Justice System” meeting.

A major highlight this quarter included a justice system review conducted by a PJEP consultant. PJEP facilitated a series of high level meetings between Palestinian justice sector leaders, facilitated by PJEP consultant Salaheddin Bashir, ex-Minister of Justice and of Economy of Jordan. Part of an ongoing conversation about how to resolve conflicts and confusion in the justice sector, the meetings began with small group discussions that included the Chief and Deputy of the HJC, the

Attorney General, the Minister and Deputy Minister of Justice, the Legal Advisor to the President, and the Head of the Palestinian Bar Association. Dr. Bashir also held two larger meetings, with

representatives of other government bodies (such as the Palestinian Judicial Institute), and with civil society organizations.

PJEP also conducted several coordination meetings with the High Judicial Council, the Ministry of Justice, the Palestinian Judicial Institute, other donors, universities and civil society organizations. The purpose of the meetings was to introduce the Palestinian Justice Enforcement Program (PJEP) to our counterparts and to learn more about the counterparts.

What's New

Events



Civic Society Organizations for all the West Bank attend the "Reorganizing the Justice System" meeting

"Reorganizing the Justice System" was the title of the meeting that brought civil society organizations (CSOs) from all the West Bank together in order to discuss problems and challenges facing the legal system in Palestine. Representatives from over 15 organizations working in the justice sector attended the meeting. The meeting was facilitated by PJEP's consultant Salaheddin Bashir, the former Minister of Justice and Minister of Economy in Jordan and by the Legal Advisor to the Palestinian President.

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) identified and invited the CSOs to take part in this meeting. The meeting opened with the Legal Advisor to the President welcoming all the attendees. PJEP's consultant then opened the floor for discussion. During the meeting, the CSOs identified problems that are causing the lack of organization in the justice sector and then spoke of various suggestions on tackling this issue. Most CSOs spoke from their experience with the public and working with the justice sector. Palestine TV conducted a brief interview with Legal Advisor to the President.

PJEP began preparations for the several-day visit by Salaheddin Bashir, engaged under Component 4 to help justice sector actor's resolve several conflicts and disagreement over specific responsibilities. The MOJ arranged Dr. Bashir's visit, and the project aided with support for meeting venues, meals, and other logistics.

Implementation issues

After several revisions, the project's workplan was approved by USAID early in the Quarter, making it possible for PJEP to recommence detailed discussions with counterparts about planned support.

The PJEP team moved into its permanent office in the Castle Building located in Ramallah on 2 May 2011 this quarter, and finalized the procurement of office furniture, equipment, and supplies. Staff were assigned a permanent work station, and given building security access cards, computers, and phones.

Personnel recruitment continued to be slow during the quarter, inhibiting PJEP's ability to conduct activities. By the end of the quarter, however, PJEP had identified the majority of staff for open positions, and two Component Team Leaders began work at the end of the quarter. Several other staff, including the Deputy Chief of Party, are scheduled to begin work early in Quarter 3. The project's proposed Component 1 Leader, who had been awaiting approval since Quarter 1, withdrew his application towards the end of Quarter 2, and the project has begun the search for a new candidate. PJEP proposes to fill the position with a temporary international candidate in the interim. The details of staff sharing with the Investment Climate Improvement project continued to develop; finance staff were shared successfully.

Announcement of a proposed Fatah-Hamas Unity Government delayed indefinitely the announcement of a Palestinian Cabinet, and caused concern among counterparts, staff, and

potential staff about potential effects on US aid funding and the project. A much more significant impact on the project was the last-minute cancellation of a long-planned, high profile workshop for justice sector leaders in Aqaba, Jordan. Because of the late change, the project may incur substantial costs, which PJEP continued to negotiate at the end of the quarter.

Activity summary

Planned activities for the next quarter:

Component 1

- Support the 4th Annual Judicial Conference in Bethlehem
- Conduct training course for court translators
- Conduct typing and ICDL course
- Conduct English extensive courses for HJC managers
- Hire a Joint Legal Committee Specialist (junior)
- Hire STTA for assessment of and reorganization of Deputy Minister of Justice (DMoJ) office
- Hire a mid-term Office Manager for DMoJ Office

Component 2

- Support training on land settlement
- Support training for conciliation judges
- Develop other continuing education courses
- Assist in identifying skilled trainers to conduct training for judges and court staff
- Develop administration systems for registration, tracking and management of curricula and students
- Assist in the design of new law schools courses that focus on practical legal skills training

Component 3

- Assist in the production of the 2011 HJC Achievement film to be viewed at the 4th Annual Judicial Conference.
- Assist in developing the film editing training for the MOJ and HJC media units
- Conduct needs assessment for MOJ and HJC media units
- Conduct financial assessments for potential CSOs partners
- Conduct a pre-award grants workshop in August
- Release two Requests for Assistance, with a goal of issuing six grants
- Organize the first Justice Sector Media and Communication Conference
- Work with journalists during and after the media conference to develop a Journalists' Code of Ethics brochure
- Organize a workshop/round table meeting between the HJC and representatives from the media to brainstorm joint public outreach activity for the HJC

Component 1 – Justice Sector Institutions

High Judicial Council (HJC)

PJEP expects to support several courts during the project. In partial preparation, PJEP staff and consultants conducted site visits to several Ramallah, Jenin, and Tulkarem courthouses, including the Conciliation Court, First Instance Court, Appellate Court, and High Court.

PJEP welcomed a Justice System Specialist consultant who was scheduled to work in Palestine for two weeks. The consultant's scope of work included liaison with counterparts and developing work plan implementation timetables. PJEP submitted a trip report after the end of the consultancy documenting the work that took place.

Several coordination meetings took place with various HJC departments. The meetings allowed PJEP to get a better sense of the needs for the HJC and to discuss the assistance PJEP will be providing to the HJC. Following is a brief wrap up of the meetings that took place:

- PJEP conducted a meeting with the HJC Information Technology (IT) Department and compiled a list of desired IT equipment. The project expects to assist in purchasing the equipment for the HJC next quarter. The HJC has emphasized the primary need for upgrading the Notary Public Offices in the West Bank. This includes the development of Mizan II modules, scanning of documents, and data entry. Also it appears that clerks (interns) maybe needed to assist in the Notary Public Offices. Any work in this area will begin after IT equipment is purchased. In addition, HJC requested help in enhancing its Human Resource Information System, and PJEP is reviewing the request.
- The HJC requested training for administrative staff, including English language training for two translators, and for Finance Department staff. PJEP will begin to plan and implement trainings for HJC staff next quarter.

Other donors

A meeting was conducted with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). During the meeting CIDA presented an overview of activities currently being implemented in the West Bank. The purpose of the meeting was to avoid any duplication of efforts as well as an opportunity to identify potential grantees for the PJEP's grants program.

The COP attended a meeting of donors and implementers to discuss coordination of assistance to the PJI. The meeting was inconclusive, but Nick Robson (EUPOLCOPPS) and Yvette Szepesi (Netherlands) will follow up with Assad Mubarak to discuss a thematic sub-group co-chaired by PJI and EUPOLCOPPS. Because this may take some time, PJEP will continue informal coordination with EUPOLCOPPS and Seyada II.

A meeting was held with EUPOLCOPPS' Department of Rule of Law. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an overview of the work currently taking place with EUPOLCOPPS assistance. PJEP wants to ensure there is no overlap in the assistance to the HJC between EUPOLCOPPS and PJEP.

Annual judicial conference

Preparation of for the 4th Annual Judicial Conference began early in the quarter. A coordination meeting was held with USAID's COTR, PJEP's Chief of Party and Court Strengthening Specialist, the Deputy Chief Justice, and other HJC staff to discuss the upcoming conference. The two-day conference will be held on 14-16 July 2011 in Bethlehem. The conference will include over 200 participants, among them 165 West Bank judges (25

female) and 10 judges from Gaza. The conference will be hosted by the HJC and supported by the project. All logistics including transportation, hotel stay, and printing materials will be handled by PJEP.

In addition PJEP will assist in preparing the 2011 HJC's annual report, including: analysis of court data and comparison with prior years' data, design of the report, translation, printing, and distribution. A 2011 HJC achievement documentary will also be produced by the HJC and PJEP will work with them to edit the final product.

Ministry of Justice (MOJ)

This quarter PJEP hired a Senior Joint Legal Committee Specialist to join the MOJ. The specialist will work with the Joint Legal Committee (JLC), which has recently been revitalized to provide a venue for consideration of practical legal issues concerning both Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The JLC gives both sides a mechanism for discussing troublesome technical issues in a technically-oriented, non-political setting. Also during the quarter interviews took place for a Junior Joint Legal Committee Specialist position. A junior JLC Specialist (to be hired next quarter) will assist in developing legal drafts, prepare MOUs and agreements, coordinate meetings, correspondence, and events for PA institutions, as well as complete other duties assigned by the Senior JLC Specialist. A candidate was selected and currently is awaiting an interview with the Deputy Minister of Justice.

Also during the quarter PJEP's Justice Institutions Strengthening Expert, USAID COTR, and the MOJ head of the Planning Department met to discuss MOJ activities. The meeting included developing a plan to begin implementation of activities. A request was made by the Deputy Minister of Justice to hire a consultant to assist at the MOJ. The consultant will be stationed at the MOJ for two weeks in order to assist developing strategic plans for the MOJ as well as developing the human resource department. Currently CV's are being reviewed and a consultant will be chosen to begin working next quarter.

Furthermore, a meeting took place with PJEP's Justice Institution Strengthening Expert, the Senior Communications and Grants advisor, the Deputy Minister of Justice and MOJ's head of the Outreach Department. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the MOJ to PJEP's Senior Communications and Grants advisor and to discuss public outreach activities for the MOJ. During the meeting discussions included the development of a public outreach plan as well as ways of collecting information for the MOJ to use for public outreach initiatives.

Component 2 – Training Legal Professionals

Palestinian Judicial Institute (PJI)

A Senior Legal Education Specialist consultant worked with PJEP to assist in developing various activities that will be implemented at PJI and at law schools. The consultant submitted a trip report that was translated into Arabic and submitted to the HJC Training Department and USAID for review. The report included findings and recommendations for implementing training activities. Some recommendations included the completion of phase one of court staff training, follow on workshop – strategic planning PJI, HJC and joint and completion of curriculum development for five year Continuing Legal Education program.

PJEP's COP and staff met with the HJC head of the Training Department to discuss potential training opportunities for judges. PJEP staff was able to obtain clarity on both the roles of the HJC Training Department and the Palestinian Judicial Institute. It was agreed that any potential training opportunities will be coordinated with the HJC Training Department. In addition there were discussions on developing a needs assessment for the training department.

PJEP will examine this further in the next quarter and will address the issue then. In addition the HJC is requesting training on land settlement (partly in Jordan) and on elections. A questionnaire survey will be developed and distributed next quarter during the 4th Annual Judicial Conference to judges. The survey will help determine the training needs for the judges.

Several meetings were also conducted with the Director of the PJI to discuss assistance for the PJI which could include the following:

- Logistics: furnishing the anticipated rented place, which consists of three floors
- Technical Assistance: hiring four legal advisors and a web specialist for the PJI
- Training: Orientation on the Diploma Program which will begin in September 2011; Training of Trainers (TOT); and the continuing education for bench judges. PJEP will try to use retired judges to assist in training.
- Curriculum development (PJEP was provided with a list of the courses to be developed for the Diploma Program).
- PJI is currently finalizing its Strategic Plan. Once the plan has been completed, PJEP will review, discuss, and coordinate with PJI on implementing the strategic plan.

In addition a request was made to PJEP from the Director of the PJI to continue support for the curriculum development program which is currently being implemented by the Karamah project. Karamah project was tasked to develop sixteen legal courses for the PJI, but the project will end before the completion of all the courses. Karamah has completed the development of four legal courses and is currently working on developing another five courses. PJEP has indicated an interest in completing the development of the remaining seven courses.

As mentioned above, the Senior Legal Education Specialist consultant met with the Director of the PJI to discuss implementing a training program. The consultant compiled a list of recommendations including developing a Training of Trainers (TOT) for PJI staff and faculty, developing the PJI two year Diploma Program, procurement of IT and audio-visual equipment, implementation of standardized procedures identified in strategic planning sessions and implementation of IT solutions/improved website. A trip report documenting all the findings and recommendations was submitted to the Director and USAID for review.

Finally, PJEP and PJI are exploring the feasibility and value of installing training management software used by other countries, including Rwanda.

Universities

During this quarter PJEP's Senior Legal Education Specialist consultant began the process of recruiting potential universities to receive assistance. PJEP met with various law schools throughout the West Bank in order to gain a better sense of the assistance needed and whether the schools will sign the ATC. Visits were made to Al Quds University in Abu Dias, An Najah University in Nablus, Al Ahliya University College Law School in Bethlehem, and Modern University College (MUC) in Ramallah. PJEP expects to select qualified universities and submit vetting information as well as signed ATCs to USAID for approval early next quarter.

PJEP's Senior Legal Education Specialist consultant compiled a trip report with recommendations that include conducting strategic planning workshop(s) for law schools practical skills courses, conducting substantive course development workshops for law school

practical skills courses, faculty practical skills TOT curriculum development and training, procurement for IT and audio-visual equipment, library needs assessment, moot court facility needs assessment – renovations/furniture and begin work with individual law schools on their practical skills curricula based upon strategic planning workshop(s) outcomes. PJEP will review the recommendations and will provide assistance as needed.

Finally, Component 2 began planning for support for a national, regional, and/or international moot court competition.

Component 3 – Public Awareness and Engagement

Public Awareness

PJEP's Component 3 along with the HJC worked on reviewing and finalizing the HJC quarterly newsletter Qada'uns ("Our Justice System"). The HJC plans to print and distribute 3,000 copies of the newsletter in Arabic and 500 in English.

PJEP conducted interviews for a communications consultant who will conduct a needs assessment for the MOJ and HJC media department. PJEP expects to identify a consultant early next quarter to begin the needs assessment.

In addition PJEP's Component 3 Leader and the Deputy Chief of Party of USAID's InterNews project met to discuss potential training for journalists on specialized ways to cover stories impacting the justice sector. Training topics could include judicial concepts and how to cover court-related issues. A training plan will be developed next quarter for the journalists.

A coordination meeting was held with the head of the HJC Media Department. Discussions during the meeting included developing a needs assessment as well as the challenges facing the HJC Media Department. Discussions also included potential media related skills training and the idea of starting a radio broadcast.

Also, PJEP's Component 3 leader met with the DCOP of Chemonics PACE project to discuss lesson learned while working with the PA Public Relations Department. A series of meetings were also held with CSOs Filastiniyat and Almarsad and the head of Net Advertising Co. to explore effective media activities to increase public confidence in the justice system.

Grants

During this quarter the Senior Civil Society Advisor conducted several visits throughout the West Bank to potential CSOs who may be eligible to receive a grant from PJEP. PJEP visited civil society organizations whose focus is on the justice system and rule of law. In addition PJEP continued to gather vetting information for potential grantees. The project is drafting requests for application (RFAs) for the first round of grants.

Component 4 – Windows of Opportunity

The project had planned to support a workshop for justice sector leaders in Aqaba, Jordan. Due to uncertainties about the identity of a new Minister of Justice,¹ the workshop was canceled at the last minute. The project eventually substituted a series of high level meetings in Ramallah between Palestinian justice sector leaders, facilitated by PJEP consultant Salaheddin Bashir, the ex-Minister of Justice and of Economy of Jordan. Part of an ongoing conversation about how to resolve conflicts and confusion in the justice sector, the meetings began with small group discussions that included the Chief and Deputy of the HJC, the

¹ Who was in fact not named during the quarter.

Attorney General, the Minister and Deputy Minister of Justice, the Legal Advisor to the President, and the Head of the Palestinian Bar Association. Dr. Bashir also held two larger meetings, with representatives of other government bodies (such as the Palestinian Judicial Institute), and with civil society organizations.

Monitoring and Evaluation

PJEP's COP, Chemonics Project Management Unit Director, and the Reporting/Data Specialist met with the project's COTR, USAID's Project Management Specialist, the COP, to discuss the Performance Management Plan (PM) and project indicators. The Chemonics Director and PJEP's Reporting/Data Specialist worked together to complete a draft PMP which was submitted to USAID for approval. USAID requested PJEP to review the PMP again and identify more impact indicators. A meeting with USAID's COTR and USAID's Project Management Specialist is scheduled for next quarter to further discuss the PMP and impact indicators. PJEP expects to finalize and submit the PMP for review to USAID next quarter. Once approval is received, PJEP will begin to upload all the information into the USAID Geo-MIS data base.

Also during the quarter a meeting took place at the PJEP office with UNDP's M&E officer to exchange information. UNDP's M&E officer provided PJEP with the questions used in a nationwide survey that was conducted to gauge information regarding the justice sector's performance. PJEP will review the questions and make sure that there is no duplication of efforts when developing PJEP's citizens' perceptions survey. PJEP is expected to receive the results of the survey next quarter and will use the information as a baseline for its citizens' perceptions survey.

PMP indicator update

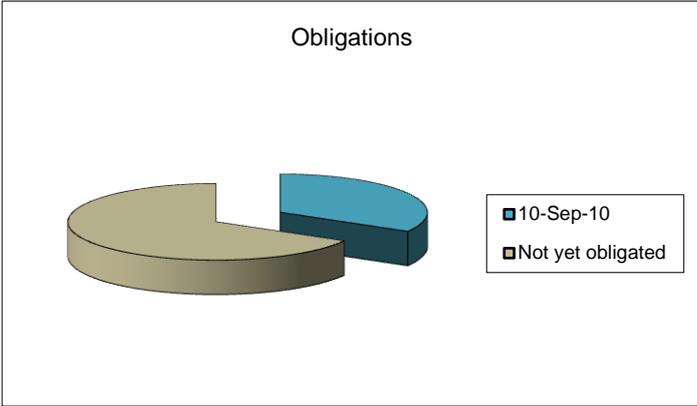
PJEP is working with USAID to finalize a Performance Monitoring Plan and indicators. PJEP expects to receive the approval next quarter.

Financial summary

Spending

Ceiling	Obligated	Cumulative before Q2	Quarter 2	Next quarter
\$14,994,749	\$5,000,000	\$379,361	\$527,468	\$1,483,361

Obligations



Spending

