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# IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM QUARTERLY REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2014 — DECEMBER 31, 2014

## January 2015

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**DISCLAIMER**

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

**Awatif Al-Mustafa is the head of the Al-Taqwa Association for Woman and Child's Rights. Al-Taqwa , a Program grantee, provides legal clinic services and engages in advocacy for vulnerable women throughout Iraq. Strong partners in the community such as Awatif, a former Member of Parliament, will allow the Program's legal services to continue into the future.**



# CONTENTS

<b>ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>EDUCATING VULNERABLE IRAQIS ON THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS .....</b>	<b>11</b>
Supporting Partners’ Awareness-raising Campaigns (Activity 1.1.1).....	11
IKR PWD Advocacy Group Awareness Campaigns (Activity 1.1.2).....	11
Educate Vulnerable Groups on Government Services (Activity 1.1.3).....	11
Ministry of Human Rights Trained to Manage Grants Program (Activity 1.1.4) .....	12
<b>IMPROVING LEGAL AID FOR VULNERABLE IRAQIS .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Institutionalizing the Legal Clinic Network (Activity 2.1.1).....	15
Institutionalizing the IKR LCN (Activity 2.1.2) .....	16
Organizational Development (Activity 2.1.3).....	16
Technical Assistance in Drafting a Legal Aid Law (Activity 2.1.4).....	16
Institutionalize Partnership between LCN and GOI (Activity 2.1.5).....	17
Support for Victims of Camp Speicher Massacre (Activities 2.1.5, 3.3.0).....	17
IBA CLE Program for Lawyers on Pro Bono and Legal Aid (Activity 2.3.1).....	18
Curriculum Development and Law School Legal Clinics (Activity 2.4.1).....	18
Improve Women’s Status in Bar Associations in Iraq (Activity 2.5.1) .....	18
<b>IMPROVE ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES FOR THE VULNERABLE .....</b>	<b>21</b>
PWDs in Center-South and IKR (Activity 3.1.2).....	21
KNGO-D Registration System (Activity 3.2.1) .....	22
Support Improved Legal Protections and Procedures for PWDs (Activity 3.2.2).....	22
Ensure Implementation of the Social Safety Net Law (Activity 3.2.4).....	22
Efforts for Internally Displaced Persons (Activity 3.2.7) .....	23
Build Capacity of CSO Partners (Activity 3.2.8).....	23
<b>MONITORING &amp; EVALUATION .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>GRANTS.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>GENDER INTEGRATION .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>UPCOMING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>ANNEX A FINANCIAL REPORTS.....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>ANNEX B PROGRAM DELIVERABLES AND RISK ANALYSIS.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>ANNEX C MONITORING &amp; EVALUATION TABLES .....</b>	<b>39</b>



Program grantee lawyers from the Women's Legal Assistance Organization assist IDPs with registration paperwork in Dahuk.

# ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

<b>COMSEC</b>	General Secretariat for the Council of Ministers	<b>MOD</b>	Ministry of Defense
<b>CRPD</b>	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	<b>MOHE</b>	Federal Ministry of Higher Education
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization	<b>MOHR</b>	Federal Ministry of Human Rights
<b>GOI</b>	Government of Iraq	<b>MOJ</b>	Federal Ministry of Justice
<b>HJC</b>	Higher Judicial Council	<b>MOLSA</b>	Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
<b>IBA</b>	Iraqi Bar Association	<b>MOP</b>	Federal Ministry of Planning
<b>IDP</b>	Internally displaced person	<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>IKR</b>	Iraqi Kurdistan Region	<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>IMN</b>	Iraqi Media Network	<b>PMAC</b>	Prime Minister's Advisory Council
<b>IQD</b>	Iraqi dinars	<b>PMP</b>	Performance Management Plan
<b>IPTT</b>	Indicators Performance Tracking Tables	<b>PPR</b>	Project Progress Review
<b>IRC</b>	International Rescue Committee	<b>PSA</b>	Public service announcement
<b>KBA</b>	Kurdistan Bar Association	<b>PTD</b>	Program-to-date
<b>KNGO-D</b>	KRG Non-Governmental Organization Department	<b>PWD</b>	Person with disabilities
<b>KRG</b>	Kurdistan Regional Government	<b>TOT</b>	Training of trainers
<b>LAWG</b>	Legal Aid Working Group	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>LCN</b>	Legal Clinic Network	<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commission on Refugees
<b>LCNAC</b>	Legal Clinic Network Advocacy Committee	<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>LOE</b>	Level of effort	<b>USD</b>	United States dollars
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and evaluation	<b>USG</b>	United States Government



**Ms. Maameen from the Program's legal clinic at Al-Maameen Humanitarian Association in Basrah assists a young mother filling out legal paperwork.**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**The Iraq Access to Justice Program (“the Program”) is the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) five-year program to improve access to justice for vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Iraq. Primary beneficiaries include internally displaced persons (IDPs) (particularly since June, 2014), vulnerable women, orphans, persons with disabilities (PWDs), detainees, minorities (both ethnic and religious), the impoverished, and returnees, among others.**

The Program incorporates the following three components:

**COMPONENT 1:** Improve the practical knowledge of vulnerable and disadvantaged Iraqis of their responsibilities, rights, and remedies under Iraqi law.

**COMPONENT 2:** Increase the competence and availability of legal professionals and civil society partners to assist vulnerable and disadvantaged Iraqis.

**COMPONENT 3:** Improve government processes and procedures to facilitate access of vulnerable and disadvantaged populations to government services and legal remedies.

The Program began November 7, 2010 and is in its fifth year of implementation. This report covers the first quarter of the fiscal year 2015 from October 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. It reports on the Program’s activities and achievements throughout the quarter and is organized as follows: (a) executive summary; (b) results achieved under the approved work plan according to the Performance Management Plan (PMP); (c) implementation challenges; (d) and annexes, which include a financial report, a list of Program deliverables, and an update on monitoring and evaluation indicators.

At the end of the reporting period, the Program was supporting 47 active grants for a total of \$2,713,216 of obligated funds. The Program’s regional offices in Erbil and Basrah continued to anchor Program activities in Iraq’s northern and southern regions, hosting training programs, developing partnerships with local government offices and civil society, and assisting monitoring efforts such as grants and communication strategies.

Security and political events in the latter part of Year 4 have slowed progress on some initiatives while at the same time created unique opportunities for the Program to address urgent needs resulting from the displacement of over 1.7 million Iraqis. The first quarter of this year saw the implementation of many IDP focused initiatives including direct assistance to thousands of IDP families in obtaining civil documentation and registration with government authorities, advocacy to reform government assistance to victims of the tragic Camp Speicher Massacre, and a rapid assessment on the legal protection needs of IDPs.

Throughout the quarter, the Program has worked on a host of initiatives—from institutionalizing a free legal aid law and policy system with the Legal Aid Working Group (LAWG), to building the administrative and managerial capacity of the Legal Clinic Network (LCN) to provide and assess legal services, and strengthening government financial and administrative support for civil society advocacy and awareness activities. Legal clinic activities, awareness campaigns, and advocacy efforts shifted focus to expand support for the millions of displaced Iraqis, and to document and respond to protection needs. This shift not only demonstrated the ability of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and government partners to respond to shifting context while maintaining core activities and objectives, but also provided a unique opportunity for the Program to improve both internal and external coordination mechanisms across focus areas.

All together, more than 34,000 brochures, posters and newspapers were distributed, 26 radio programs were broadcast, and 111 awareness workshops were conducted this last quarter by 24 partners.

Radio broadcasts included radio shows such as the legal clinic on Sawt Al-Basrah that are produced in partnership and through substantial contribution from the provincial governments. In anticipation of a mammoth awareness campaign rolling out in February, the Citizen's Affairs Directorate (COMSEC) and Program experts provided technical guidance in the development of television and radio broadcasts and print materials for this joint Program / COMSEC campaign, which were approved by the Director General of the Citizen's Affairs Directorate.

Upon completion of data gathering for a survey on the status of unregistered marriages, the Program provided a follow-up training to the LCN Advocacy Committee (LCNAC) on successes and challenges in the design and implementation of the survey process, and on good practices in survey analysis and reporting. The LCNAC drafted its initial results during Q1, and found that 33.9 percent of families surveyed had not registered their religious marriages with the courts at the time of entering into marriages contracts. Among those whose marriages remained unregistered at the time of the survey, 22 percent of wives were under the age of 14 at the time the marriage was contracted.

The Program remained focused on institutionalizing legal assistance through sustainable funding for legal service providers, effective monitoring of service provision, clear qualification criteria, and volunteer contributions (*pro bono* lawyers, interns, etc.) to ensure available resources for legal aid in the future. The Program intensified efforts to strengthen the abilities and capacities of the LCN as an effective umbrella organization uniting the interests of the Program non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to ensure that civil society member organizations are able to effectively advocate for changes to government procedures and relevant laws affecting vulnerable populations as well as institutionalize partnerships with key government and non-government institutions. The LCN drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will formalize ongoing cooperation with the COMSEC Citizen's Affairs Directorate, and support ongoing provision of legal aid at the provincial level. The MOU is expected to be completed and signed by the end of Q2. An early success in the broader plan to institutionalize the partnership between the LCN and COMSEC was the decision of the Government of Iraq (GOI) to partner with Program legal clinics to ensure access to government benefits for victims and families impacted by the Camp Speicher Massacre.

The LAWG delegation returned to Baghdad from its study tour in Georgia with outcome recommendations from their comparative analysis of different legal aid laws and systems of implementation that helped them finalize the draft Legal Aid Law for Iraq for submission to the COMSEC Legal Directorate. The law is now sitting with the Shura Council for review.

The Program and its CSO partners developed three studies with targeted recommendations to reform procedures impacting IDP access to justice. This work focused on IDP access to courts, access to the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MOMD) registration and safe territory at the governorate level, and an examination of the scale and nature of critical IDP legal protection needs. These studies revealed the multiple obstacles facing IDPs in accessing justice, including: burdensome procedural obstacles under both federal legislation and ministerial instructions, a lack of critical identity documentation among displaced families (almost 50 percent are missing one or more documents), the need for increased legal aid provision among poor families, and limited awareness of rights and procedures. Result of the studies will be used to advocate for reform and will raise awareness of IDPs and legal service providers to help these groups navigate complex procedures.

The center-south PWD Advocacy Group finalized draft recommendations on the implementation of Law No. 38 of 2013 on the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs for Ministries of Labor and Social Affairs, Health, Housing and Construction, Education, Justice, and Sport and Youth, as well as for the Higher Judicial Council. Key recommendations include the amendment of instructions related to Article 19 which provides for care-givers for persons with disabilities and the development of designs that meet the needs of PWDs with regard to exits and entrances to buildings. The IKR PWD Advocacy Group drafted recommended amendments to KRG Law No. 21 of 2011 on The Rights of Persons with Disabilities so that it is harmonized with the federal government's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and officially submitted them to the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) on December 21, 2014.

The Program continued supporting the GOI's efforts to implement the CRPD with the training of over 20 government officials from Ministries of Human Rights, Labor and Social Affairs, Interior, Planning, Health and Youth and Sport, COMSEC and the Shura Council on best practices in disability research, monitoring and reporting.



Program grantee, Al-Maameen, assists hundreds of IDPs and their children fleeing ISIL.

A meeting of the IKR Advocacy Committee which is fighting for the rights of PWDs throughout Iraq.



## COMPONENT I

# PUBLIC AWARENESS

### EDUCATING VULNERABLE IRAQIS ON THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS

Targeted awareness-raising is at the core of the Program's efforts to increase access to justice within Iraq. During the first quarter of Year 5, the Program focused on strengthening the sustainability of awareness activities implemented by all groups while providing technical assistance and mentorship to enhance the effectiveness of national and provincial awareness campaigns. The Program continued building the capacity the LCN Advocacy Committee (LCNAC), PWD Advocacy Group and the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR) PWD Advocacy Group to reach and mobilize Iraq's vulnerable populations to seek out and claim rights. These awareness activities continued to play a crucial role in connecting government decision-makers, vulnerable citizens, and non-vulnerable populations to advocacy efforts. The following activities highlight this quarter's public awareness and outreach efforts:

#### Supporting Partners' Awareness-raising Campaigns (Activity I.1.1)

##### Program Partnership with Iraqi Media

**Network:** In collaboration with COMSEC's Citizen's Affairs Directorate, the Program facilitated a partnership between the Iraq Media Network (IMN) and three Program CSO partners—Tammuz Organization, Al-Mortaqa and Al-Meezan Newspaper. Our partners collaboratively developed a national media campaign that includes messages on critical issues facing vulnerable populations, particularly IDPs, such as obtaining identity documents, housing, employment and financial assistance. The Citizen's Affairs Directorate and Program experts provided technical guidance in the development of television and radio broadcasts and print materials, which were approved by the Director General of the Citizen's Affairs Directorate. IMN has agreed to donate air time on national radio and satellite television stations and publication space in a national newspaper. The campaign is set to launch in February 2015, with a distribution schedule designed to reach the greatest number of people possible.

#### IKR PWD Advocacy Group Awareness Campaigns (Activity I.1.2)

The IKR PWD Advocacy Group was mentored in its ability to implement nationwide advocacy campaigns on the rights of the disabled. This training included activities designed to emphasize the importance and need for the group to establish clear decision-making procedures and practices and coordination models to ensure sustainability of activities and aided in the group's organizational development.

#### Educate Vulnerable Groups on Government Services (Activity I.1.3)

This quarter's awareness raising campaigns targeted IDPs, PWDs, vulnerable women and victims of terrorism on issues of domestic violence, documentation assistance for IDPs, financial assistance for victims of terrorism, unregistered marriages and inclusion and accommodations for PWDs. Activities included the distribution of printed materials such as one-pagers and brochures, broadcast media programs, and workshops. More than 34,000 brochures, posters and newspapers



**ABOVE:** A brochure produced by Program grantee Al-Mortaqa on inclusion of PWD children



**ABOVE: A poster from the Program's partner Women's Legal Assistance Organization helping victims of domestic violence seek out free legal assistance**

were distributed, 26 radio programs were broadcast, and 111 awareness workshops were implemented by 24 partners. Radio broadcasts included radio shows such as the legal clinic on Sawt Al-Basrah that are produced in partnership and through substantial contribution from the provincial governments.

Previously, the LCNAC had completed a survey, along with initial results, on the status of unregistered marriage. The survey is part of the LCNAC's advocacy campaign on unregistered marriage and included random sampling of households in Baghdad, Basrah, Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Maysan, Babil, Anbar, Diyala, and Ninawa. Post data collection, the Program completed a follow-up training for the LCNAC on successes and challenges in the design and implementation of the survey process, and on good practices in survey analysis and reporting. The training examined gaps in sampling and targeting, challenges with survey tool design, and developing the results report.

Initial results of the survey reflect that 33.9 percent of families surveyed did not register their religious marriages with the courts, as required by law, at the time of entering into marriages contracts, and 46 percent of the 33.9 percent had not registered their marriages at the time of the survey. Among the unregistered marriages, 22 percent of the wives were

under the age of 14 at the time the marriage was contracted. The results of this survey will be finalized in a report developed with Program support and shared with vulnerable groups as well as government and judiciary officials as part of the LCNAC's ongoing awareness and advocacy campaign to increase court registration of marriage to protect the rights of women and children under the personal status law.

### Ministry of Human Rights Trained to Manage Grants Program (Activity I.1.4)

The Program continued its support of the Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR) \$500,000 grants program for awareness activities targeting marginalized groups in a series of grants management trainings. Using the Program's grants manual as a foundation, the Program completed an intensive 36 hour training program on grants management and administration, and grants monitoring and evaluation for 10 of the MOHR staff. Prior to the training, the MOHR had no formal systems for overseeing grantee activities, managing grant budgets, or monitoring and evaluating performance. Training program participants drafted a logistical framework and work plan for monitoring and evaluation, and written policies and procedures for grants management, which are currently with MOHR senior management for final approval. The MOHR is now prepared to issue an official request for applications from qualified NGOs. Once applications are received, the Program will mentor the MOHR grants team to assess applications, formalize grant contracts with winning applicants, and conduct initial oversight activities.



# AN ABUSED FAMILY GETS A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Married at 12, after 3 years of domestic violence, Hana reached out and received the help she needed.

Hana was 15 when she came to the legal clinic at Al-Taqwa Association for Women and Child Rights. She had been married at 12 years old to a much older man who abused her and denied her and their children money for food or basic necessities. After 3 years, Hana reached out for help from the Women's Committee of the Provincial Council in her community. They referred her to Al Taqwa Association for Women and Child Rights.

Obtaining a divorce in Iraq is difficult, even for a 15 year old with two children who is suffering domestic violence at the hands of her husband. For Hana, the case was even more complex because her marriage had never been registered with the courts. Therefore, she was without the legal protections afforded to wives; her children also were not recognized by the government and were unable to receive legal benefits, including schooling. Unregistered marriages are a significant problem in Iraq. One recent survey conducted by the Program indicated that 33.9% of religious marriages were unregistered. This is why the Program has been actively educating the Iraqi population through workshops and awareness materials about the risk of unregistered marriage. The Program has been successful in engaging many tribal and religious leaders to advise registration of all marriages.

Al-Taqwa took on Hana's case and helped her file all of the forms to register her marriage and to apply for government assistance. Unfortunately, as a penalty for not registering the marriage in the first place, the courts levied a fine of 1 million IQD which needed to be paid before the marriage could be registered. As the husband would not pay the fine, Al-Taqwa worked with the courts to have the fine dropped to 400,000 IQD which they were able to pay on Hana's behalf.

With the continued assistance of the legal clinic at Al-Taqwa, Hana's marriage was registered, a divorce was granted and her children obtained

identification documents. She is now receiving a proper pension from the Iraqi government and lives with her family along with her two children. In addition, Al-Taqwa was able to purchase a sewing machine for Hana which she now uses to sew school uniforms in order to generate extra income.



**ABOVE:** Hana, using her sewing machine, which now helps to support her daughter

PHOTO: USAID ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

## The Program focuses on countering unregistered marriage so that women can be assured all of their rights under Iraqi law.

Mr. Hadi Al-Kazmi, Trainer for the Iraqi Bar Association, educates the Association's lawyers on *pro bono* and legal aid.



## COMPONENT 2

# LEGAL EDUCATION & SERVICES

### IMPROVING LEGAL AID FOR VULNERABLE IRAQIS

The Program is working toward a fully functioning and sustainable free legal aid system in September 2015. This quarter saw the Program heavily focused on assisting the LCN build capacity in all areas. The LCN is the umbrella organization that institutionally unites the NGOs that are implementing legal aid at the provincial level. Through its NGO partners operating legal clinics in almost all provinces, the Program increased the availability of legal aid to those suffering from the ISIL invasion and continued to support the development of laws to assist Iraqis. The following activities highlight the Program's efforts to increase the competence and availability of legal professionals to assist vulnerable Iraqis this quarter:

#### Institutionalizing the Legal Clinic Network (Activity 2.1.1)

Central to the sustainability of the Program's efforts and the work of the individual NGOs in providing legal assistance at the provincial and local levels is the establishment of the LCN as a stand-alone entity that will pull the individual organizations all together. The LCN is a registered network of 38 member NGOs whose mission is to train and provide technical assistance to the many legal clinics across the country to improve access to and quality of legal aid services. It also provides the platform through which the individual organizations can, as a collective entity, approach important government and non-governmental actors and establish formalized agreements and working relationships.

**Organizational Capacity Assessment:** During the quarter, the Program finalized its assessment of the LCN's organizational capacity and developed a comprehensive plan to improve capacity and sustainability. The report outlining assessment results was published near the end of the quarter and will serve as guidance for the LCN in its institutionalization efforts. Areas of focus include

increasing leadership within the organization, better coordination among the various LCN bodies, and the development of policies and procedures which are more clearly defined. The Program will use the report to focus its support to the LCN.

**Funding:** In this final year of the Program, the LCN will assume key technical and operational activities from the Program to support the provision of legal assistance to vulnerable Iraqis, including advocacy and awareness activities, management of referrals for legal and non-legal services, and development of funding proposals. In support of this transition, the Program awarded a grant to the LCN that enabled it to hire an Executive Director and core staff, including a Fundraising Officer, Media & Public Relations Specialist, and Administrative & Logistics Officer. The new Executive Director, Ms. Zainab Salih, was formally with the United States Institute of Peace in Iraq, Arab Center for Rule of Law, and Women for Women International. Her authorities and responsibilities were approved by the LCN Board of Directors (BOD). The LCN will also use grant funds to build organizational capacity and strengthen leadership and oversight over its activities.

The recruitment of staff and the grant award marked a significant shift in relations between the Program and the LCN, which has provided an excellent opportunity for the LCN to assume full accountability for its activities. The Program will continue to provide technical and mentorship support to the LCN in the development and implementation of policies and procedures. The knowledge and experience that comes along with these activities will create programmatic and operational self-sufficiency within in the LCN and will instill a sense of purpose and initiative. In addition to internal structural improvements, the LCN is significantly contributing to the Program's Year 5 outputs that not only supports increasing access to justice for vulnerable populations, but also strengthens the LCN's position through the development of partnerships with local and national

government entities as well as the international community.

**Partnerships:** The Baghdad Provincial Council officially requested coordination with LCN members in the provision of free legal services for vulnerable Iraqis. While the Council is not mandated to provide direct services, the LCN's successful partnership with COMSEC Citizen's Affairs Offices in the governorates prompted the actions. Using the Citizen's Affairs–LCN partnership as a model, the Provincial Council asked that LCN lawyers establish weekly office hours at the Provincial Council in order to receive referrals for legal aid. This structure will improve access to legal aid for vulnerable Iraqis visiting the Provincial Council offices, and will also improve the local government's awareness of legal aid needs among its constituents. In addition to providing technical assistance and professional development opportunities for LCN lawyers, the Program will advocate for and support the Provincial Council's direct funding of LCN members in the future.

The LCN established another successful partnership with the registered IKR LCN. The two organizations signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU), which outlined mutual cooperation, information-sharing, best practices support, and referrals. This pairing took place in lieu of the Program's twinning/mentoring activities for the quarter and will be an important relationship as it continues to develop.

**Training:** The Program trained the LCN board members on proper recruitment processes, organization of their board and overall governance of the organization. In addition to supporting the recruitment of the Executive Director and three staff members reported above, this training also produced the HR policy that is currently being used by the LCN. The Program also worked with LCN board members to establish procedures to enforce existing policies. Additional training provided by Program staff on governance produced the LCN's procurement policies and procedures as well as the financial policies. The Program's Media Specialist trained LCN staff on media, public relations and outreach. This training resulted in the LCN developing a media and communications plan.

### **Institutionalizing the IKR LCN (Activity 2.1.2)**

This quarter saw the further establishment of the IKR LCN with the finalization of their bylaws,

structuring of committees and the completion of their registration with the KRG Non-Governmental Organization Department (KNGO-D). The committees have begun their coordination work with key counterparts. The internship and *pro bono* committee, for example began coordinating with the KMOHE to establish officially recognized internships for law students at NGO legal clinics. The sustainability committee have been meeting with the NGO Department to solicit funding for their secretariat activities. The IKR LCN is now authorized to receive funding from the government and international donors.

In December, the LCN and the IKR LCN signed an MOU that establishes parameters for joint cooperation on referrals, internships, and government coordination

### **Organizational Development (Activity 2.1.3)**

The Program continued organizational development activities with pre-existing partner CSOs being provided trainings on management, legal clinic best practices and legal aid. The Program continued its coordination with Mercy Corps to provide all new Program CSOs with an organizational development assessment. CSOs which joined the Program this quarter will receive training on organizational development in the middle of Q2.

### **Technical Assistance in Drafting a Legal Aid Law (Activity 2.1.4)**

The Program supported key stakeholders in Iraq's legal sector, including government officials, bar associations, law schools and civil society to facilitate the development of a consensus-based draft legal aid law reflecting international best practices and the specific needs of Iraq. A series of activities were undertaken to enhance stakeholder understanding of legal aid concepts, service delivery models, funding, and oversight mechanisms.

In October, the Program supported a delegation of LAWG members to Tbilisi, Georgia, to study successful legal aid systems in other countries. Iraqi participants included representatives from PMAC, the Legal, Civil Society, and Human Rights Committees of the Council of Representatives; COMSEC Legal, Citizens' Affairs, and NGO Directorates and the Legislation Department; the Ministries of Planning, Human Rights and Women's Affairs; the Iraqi Bar Association; the Baghdad

**TABLE 3: LAW SCHOOL LEGAL CLINICS**

<b>LAW SCHOOL</b>	<b>LEGAL CLINIC STATUS</b>
<b>Babil Law School</b>	Grant closed, clinic under consideration for inclusion into law school program through University
<b>Baghdad Law School</b>	Grant closed, clinic continues to be operational and self-supported
<b>Diyala Law School</b>	Grant closed, clinic continues to be operational and self-supported
<b>Dhi Qar Law School</b>	Grant closed at the end of June, 2014
<b>Dahuk Law School</b>	Currently being funded by the Program
<b>Islamic University (Najaf)</b>	Grant closed, clinic continues to be operational and self-supported
<b>Salah ad Din Law school (Erbil)</b>	Currently being funded by the Program
<b>Sulaymaniyah Law School</b>	Currently being funded by the Program
<b>Maysan Law School</b>	Currently being funded by the Program

Law School; and LCN members. The study tour agenda included: 1) presentations on the legal aid systems in Bulgaria, Georgia, Netherlands, and South Africa; 2) site visits to Georgian legal aid delivery centers; 3) meeting with the Assistant to the Head of the Georgian Parliament to discuss the role of Parliament in developing and monitoring the Georgian Legal Aid System; and 4) a one-day workshop on key implementation issues. The LAWG delegation returned to Baghdad with outcome recommendations from their comparative analysis of different legal aid laws and systems of implementation that helped them finalize the draft Legal Aid Law for Iraq for submission to the COMSEC Legal Directorate. The law is now sitting with the Shura Council for review.

### **Institutionalize Partnership between LCN and GOI (Activity 2.1.5)**

The LCN drafted an MOU that will formalize ongoing cooperation with the COMSEC Citizen's Affairs Directorate and support the provision of legal aid at the provincial level. The MOU is expected to be completed and signed by the end of the next quarter. While the relationship between each individual NGO legal clinic and local COMSEC Citizen's Affairs Office at the provincial level is key to the establishment of a free legal aid system for the indigent, the LCN provides the venue for the formal relationships developed between the individual NGOs as a collective and government entities at the federal level in order to ensure

proper oversight and management of legal clinics.

The Program completed site visits to Citizen's Affairs offices in different provinces to provide technical assistance and to monitor the work of CSO legal clinic attorneys providing legal services. These visits are designed to improve legal clinic operations in the Citizen's Affairs offices; issues are promptly resolved and recorded for future reference and for the benefit of the entire operation. The Program's assistance to these legal clinics also builds their capacity and supports the working relationship between COMSEC and CSOs. Improving quality of services and coordination between the provincial Citizens' Affairs offices are key components to ensuring the sustainability of the partnership beyond the life of the Program, including funding support for CSO legal clinics through the COMSEC Citizen's Affairs Directorate. It is important to note, however, that the Citizen's Affairs Directorate is dependent on the enactment of the national budget to release funds for legal aid support and other activities. At time of writing, the budget remains under development by the government.

### **Support for Victims of Camp Speicher Massacre (Activities 2.1.5, 3.3.0)**

Another early success in the broader plan to institutionalize the partnership between the LCN and COMSEC was the response to victims and families impacted by the Camp Speicher incident of June 2014. In a roundtable co-hosted by the

Program and COMSEC Citizen's Affairs Directorate, government officials and LCN members from Babil, Dhi Qar, Diwaniyah and Muthanna Provinces developed and agreed upon a comprehensive response plan that includes: 1) the provision of compensation for victims' families; 2) easing procedural requirements to file claims and report missing family members with the courts; and 3) increased access to legal assistance through the Program's legal clinics.

Based on the outcomes of the roundtable, the Citizen's Affairs Directorate drafted and finalized a letter of coordination outlining roles and responsibilities between the Directorate, Program, and LCN in the implementation of the third component of this response plan. This letter of coordination was signed by the Program and the Citizen's Affairs Directorate and is currently awaiting approval by the General Secretary of COMSEC. Responsibilities of the Program defined in the letter of agreement will be carried out by the LCN. Seven CSOs in four governorates are responsible for collecting victim information in coordination with the Ministry of Defense (MOD), which is charged with providing financial compensation to qualified families, and adopting cases on behalf of victims' families to support claims with the MOD through official powers of attorney. The GOI has contributed airtime and placement of public service messages campaign with 10 satellite channels a newspaper and media agency to announce available services and compensation for victims and their families.

### **IBA CLE Program for Lawyers on Pro Bono and Legal Aid (Activity 2.3.1)**

The Program awarded the IBA an in-kind grant agreement to design and implement a series of trainings for 400 Iraqi lawyers on *pro bono* legal services and legal aid. During the reporting period, two trainings were completed with 79 lawyers. In an effort to ensure that the highest quality of training is provided, the Program developed an assessment survey which was distributed to attendees of the training. Following the collection of survey information at the third training, the IBA will analyze the data and work with the Program to make adjustments to the training, if necessary.

### **Curriculum Development and Law School Legal Clinics (Activity 2.4.1)**

In December, the Program completed training on best practices for law school legal clinics. Representatives

from the four newly established law school legal clinics in Erbil, Dahuk, Maysan, and Sulaymaniyah attended the training. The training utilized the Program's best practices model and focused on: 1) introduction to legal clinics; 2) law school legal clinic curriculum; 3) relationships among students, professors and lawyers; 4) designing training agenda, methodology and courses; and 5) issues including legal advocacy techniques, informal justice and managing legal service programs. The agenda also included best practices in reporting, information collecting, case management and filing systems.

The Program has been monitoring former law school grantees' progress in maintaining their legal clinics once grant are finished. Three of six law schools are in the process of making the legal clinic an official part of the law school, capable of receiving funding for future activities.

With Program support, five IKR law school deans have formed a regular meeting group that provides substantive input into a central syllabus for tertiary legal education. This quarter, the deans drafted bylaws that will guide a newly formed Law School Deans' Council in the IKR in its efforts to improve legal education and integrate legal clinical education into the formal curriculum. Deans from law schools in Dahuk, Koya, Soran, Sulaymaniyah and Salah ad Din participated in the meeting. The bylaws will be presented to the Ministry of Higher Education for approval.

### **Improve Women's Status in Bar Associations in Iraq (Activity 2.5.1)**

The Program initiated the drafting of a work plan for the IBA to assist with gender integration within the organization. The work plan included processes which will increase the inclusion of women lawyers into the Association. This work plan was developed following a meeting between the IBA and the Program which discussed best practices in empowering the IBA's Women's Committee. The draft work plan includes ways to address obstacles currently facing female lawyers in Iraq.

The Program addresses the attendees of the training on *pro bono* and legal aid by the Iraqi Bar Association.



The Program leads a discussion at COMSEC on assistance that Program partner legal clinics will provide to victims of the Speicher Massacre.



## COMPONENT 3

# ADVOCACY & POLICY REFORM

### IMPROVE ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE IRAQIS

In this quarter, the Program continued its efforts to develop and implement national advocacy campaigns which are integrated with targeted awareness initiatives aimed at improving the lives of IDPs, vulnerable women, PWDs, minorities, children, and the elderly. The Program worked not only to expand and deepen these advocacy efforts at the local and national level and to strengthen support and buy-in among local officials, but also provided capacity-building support to the center-south PWD Advocacy Group, and the IKR PWD Advocacy Group to sustain coordinated and strategic advocacy initiatives over the long-term.

Past nationwide advocacy campaigns have focused on wives of missing husbands, unregistered marriages, and disability inclusion and protections. These and other advocacy initiatives successfully saw the enactment of two federal laws: the Social Safety Net Law No. 11 of 2014 and Law No. 38 of 2013 on the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs. In this quarter, the Program engaged in ensuring the implementation and usage of these laws.

#### PWDs in Center-South and IKR (Activity 3.1.2)

**Strategic Advocacy Plans:** With Program support, the IKR and center-south PWD Advocacy Groups finalized two-year strategic advocacy plans during the quarter. They focus on improving the capacity of CSO partners to advocate for legal and procedural reforms and enhance coordination with government officials to support disability inclusion practices.

**Center-South Activities:** The center-south PWD Advocacy Group finalized its 2015 work plan that includes increased coordination with the High Commission for Human Rights, MOHR, MOLSA and Provincial Councils in the governorates of Baghdad, Babil, Dhi Qar and Basrah to ensure the effective implementation of Law No. 38 of 2013 on The Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs. Critical components of the work plan focus on establishing a

permanent Board for the independent Commission on Persons with Disabilities (currently chaired by the Deputy Minister of MOLSA) and advocating for Iraq's accession to the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The work plan also includes engagement in both traditional media (newspaper) and social media (Facebook) page.

The center-south PWD Advocacy Group also finalized draft recommendations on the implementation of Law No. 38 of 2013. The recommendations were developed for the GOI entities that are obligated under the law to implement reforms in services for PWDs—Ministries of Labor and Social Affairs, Health, Housing and Construction, Education, Justice, and Sport and Youth, as well as for the Higher Judicial Council. Key recommendations include the amendment of instructions related to Article 19, which provides for care-givers for persons with disabilities, and the development of designs that meet the needs of PWDs with regard to exits and entrances to buildings.

The Program completed three days of training with the IKR PWD Advocacy Group and government officials on the exclusion of disabled children from education as a violation of their right to mainstream education. The training agenda included four sections on inclusive education: (1) linking previous discussions on international models of inclusive education with the reality in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region and Iraq; (2) identification of gaps, opportunities and partnerships within the education systems in Iraq; (3) standard components of education strategies; and (4) developing guidelines for future comprehensive strategy on disability inclusion. The workshop, which included participants from the Ministries of Education, Higher Education, Labor and Social Affairs, and the High Commission for Human Rights, improved participant awareness of inclusive education strategies and best practices and established guidelines for an inclusive education strategy for Iraq. Such a strategy falls under the purview of the Commission on Persons with Disabilities, which remains under development. Additionally, outputs were added to the list of recommendations for reforming the IKR Law on



**ABOVE: A female lawyer from Women for Justice in Karbala discusses advocacy campaigns during a meeting of the Legal Clinic Network Advocacy Committee**

Disabilities that was submitted to the KRG Minister of Labor in December.

**IKR activities:** During the quarter, the IKR PWD Advocacy Group drafted recommended amendments to KRG Law No. 21 of 2011 on The Rights of Persons with Disabilities to harmonize it with the federal government’s obligations under the UN CRPD<sup>1</sup> Recommendations include the amending of the title of the Law by replacing “special needs” with “disabilities” and establishing the Higher Commission for Disability to replace the existing non-active Disability Council. After officially receiving the recommendations, the KRG Minister of Labor and Social Affairs agreed with the recommendations and proposed that Program partner CSOs directly engage the Ministry and the KMOLSA Legal Directorate to include the proposed changes in the draft amended law currently pending with the KRG Council of Ministers.

#### **KNGO-D Registration System (Activity 3.2.1)**

The training and handover process of the new online registration system, which includes an online grant application process, for the KNGO-D was completed this quarter and will be made available to the public in the next quarter. The Program provided technical

<sup>1</sup> The KRG law was legislated in 2011, while the federal government ratified the CPRD in 2013. As a result, there are conflicts between the KRG law and the federal government’s obligations under the CRPD.

expertise to develop the system as part of its partnership with the KNGO-D, which funds three Program-supported legal clinic partners in the IKR.

#### **Support Improved Legal Protections and Procedures for PWDs (Activity 3.2.2)**

The Program continued supporting the GOI’s efforts to implement the CRPD with the training of 20 government officials from the Ministries of Human Rights, Labor and Social Affairs, Interior, Planning, Health and Youth and Sport, COMSEC and the Shura Council on best practices in disability research, monitoring and reporting. The GOI’s inter-governmental committee responsible for writing the national report completed a draft that is currently undergoing final revisions.

#### **Ensure Implementation of the Social Safety Net Law (Activity 3.2.4)**

During the quarter, Program partner Model Iraqi Woman (MIW) advocated for the creation of the Social Safety Net Commission called for under the Social Protection Safety Net Law. The Law tasks the Commission with overseeing the provision of cash transfers and services and developing new programs intended to build human capital—such as conditional cash transfers that would link benefits to children’s school attendance or medical check-ups. In order to

build grass-roots support and pressure the government to act, MIW successfully garnered the support of local government officials in Dhi Qar, Al-Muthanna, Wasit, Maysan and Diwaniyah, which have the largest percentage of poverty in Iraq. As a result of MIW's advocacy efforts, officials in these five governorates sent formal letters to COMSEC urging implementation of the Social Protection Law as a critical need for Iraq's vulnerable groups.

### **Efforts for Internally Displaced Persons (Activity 3.2.7)**

The Program supported new advocacy and awareness initiatives on behalf of vulnerable Iraqis displaced by the security crisis. These included: (1) a qualitative assessment of procedural obstacles to IDP access to courts in their areas of displacement and recommendations for reform; (2) an examination of Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MOMD) registration procedures and access to safe territory by region to improve IDP awareness and quality of legal assistance; and (3) a quantitative rapid assessment of IDP legal protection needs.

For the assessment of procedural obstacles impacting access to courts, the Program interviewed judges and lawyers in 10 governorates with large numbers of IDPs. Results indicated that jurisdiction and personal notification requirements under the federal Civil Procedure Code prevent resolution of most cases for persons from conflict-affected areas. Program recommendations, developed in coordination with judges, include suspending geographic jurisdiction requirements and supplementing newspaper notification for personal notice. The recommendations will be provided to the head of the Higher Judicial Council in February.

To gather updated information on MOMD registration requirements and access to safe territory, the Program coordinated with ministry officials in the federal and Kurdish governments, and with CSO legal clinic partners in Baghdad, Babylon, Najaf, Karbala, Wasit, Erbil, Basrah, Muthanna, Maysan and Dhi Qar. Procedures vary significantly from governorate to governorate, though awareness remains relatively low. Generally, IDPs must register with local police, Mukhtars, and the MOMD and must present at least one of the four critical identity documents for each family member. In the north, IDPs must also register with Asayeesh and obtain a local sponsor. The study revealed that challenges in accessing identity documentation continue to limit the ability of many displaced families to register.

Following these studies and discussions with

government officials and international humanitarian responders, the Program recognized that comprehensive quantitative data on the scale and nature of legal needs and procedural obstacles facing IDPs was not available. In response to this gap, the Program and its partners developed and executed a rapid assessment of 3,900 families on the legal protection status of IDPs in Iraq. Results of this assessment will provide necessary empirical data to support the Program's advocacy and service efforts on behalf of IDPs and enable related government entities to better develop targeted interventions and reform procedures.

Initial results of the rapid assessment support anecdotal evidence that significant numbers of displaced families are missing critical identity documents, have difficulty accessing courts and services, and lack awareness of how to obtain assistance or navigate procedures. Nearly 45 percent of IDPs, for example, are missing civil status (jinsiya) documents, which are the basis for legal identity. Further, 44.5 percent are missing marriage registration documents, which are needed to obtain identity for undocumented children. These legal protection needs disproportionately impact IDPs displaced to different areas—particularly the Dahuk area of the IKR where the majority of displaced Yezidi have settled. Perhaps more importantly, the majority of respondents reported that a lack of financial resources has prevented them from obtaining legal and other assistance.

These results highlight the urgent need to expand access to legal aid services to IDPs in coordination with relevant line ministries and to advocate for critical reforms in procedures. The Program will publish and disseminate final results of the rapid assessment in early February 2015 and utilize the information to reinforce ongoing advocacy with government, as well as to better target and expand awareness-raising and services for IDPs.

### **Build Capacity of CSO Partners (Activity 3.2.8)**

The Program partnered with UNICEF to train grantees on child protection and monitoring reporting mechanisms outlined in a Letter of Agreement that the Program signed with UNICEF. The two-day training in Erbil was attended by representatives from grantees Voice of Older People, Warvin Foundation for Woman's Rights, Bojeen Organization, Odessa Organization for Woman's Development, and Woman's Organization for Legal Assistance. The training covered UNICEF's Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism and focused on the UN Convention of Rights of Children, the two related optional protocols, and UN decisions on the rights of children and legal aspects of the convention.

# MONITORING & EVALUATION

During the first quarter of 2015, the following activities were undertaken to enhance Program performance, to inform decisions, be accountable to stakeholders, and support organizational learning:

- The FY 2015 Performance Management Plan (PMP) as reviewed. Action items were identified with Program technical teams and the USAID FY 2015 Project Progress Review (PPR) targets were updated accordingly;
- M&E Indicators Performance Tracking Tables (IPTT) for all PMP indicators for the FY 2014 Annual Performance Report and FY 2015 Performance report were reviewed and compiled;
- The system of checks and balances and guidelines to ensure the validity of data before entering it into the project database was strengthened;
- Realistic requirements, templates and processes internal deadlines for data collecting, sharing internally, verification, summarizing, analyzing, and final verification among internal units of the Program were developed;
- M&E capacity of the Program and Program partner organizations were developed through one-on-one mentoring and an M&E training course to assist grantees in collecting data and understanding the vision behind the data collection for accomplishing program-wide goals. To this end, training was conducted for the LCN and MOHR on the institutionalization of a system for common understanding in order to develop PMP indicators, track their grantees activities, capture data, design surveys, analyze and report;
- Efficient data was collected for the Program as outlined in the PMP and Statement of Work by developing and utilizing forms and other tools that facilitate data collection against the PMP indicators; and
- An IDP rapid assessment survey was designed and

enumerators were trained for field work and on the database.

The Program collected and verified data for eleven of the performance indicators (1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.2, 3.1 and 3.2) from the updated PMP during this quarter. Specific and disaggregated data can be found in IPTTs annex in line with the corresponding Intermediate Results.

The M&E team led the execution of a rapid assessment survey that aimed to understand the scale and nature of critical legal protection and awareness needs among the IDP population. This was done in order to more effectively use program resources and better target humanitarian interventions. The survey included a geographically representative sample of Iraqi IDPs, with 10 governorates which constitute roughly 90% of the total IDP population in Iraq.

Issues addressed in the survey include IDP socio-economic and demographic characteristics, access to identity documentation and challenges; access to courts and civil procedure challenges; gaps in access to legal protection services; missing relatives; MOMD registration and access to non-MOMD government services (welfare, pensions, education).

Initial findings of the survey showed that 45% of IDPs were missing necessary official documents such as civil status identification and 48% of IDPs were missing nationality certificates. In addition, the survey found that only seven percent of IDPs have attempted to seek legal assistance for addressing any of the problems they face.

# GRANTS

At the end of the reporting period, the Program had 47 active grants, totaling \$2,696,497 of obligated funds. Four grants concluded during the reporting period and are currently being closed out.

## Grant Awards (Activity 4.1.1)

During the first quarter of Year 5, the Program awarded 8 solicited (competitive) grants and follow-on grants totaling \$298,155. These 8 new grants included 6 follow-on grants: one for the LCN and another for the IBA.

## Grant Administration (Activity 4.1.2)

The Program is currently generating weekly reports which are submitted to USAID using the new Access database. The grants database also includes reports such as project profiles, grantee profiles, detailed payment reports and several others which are essential for program tracking and data management. The information from the database has also been used in the creation of infographic material to support the communication efforts of the Program.

## Grants Training (Activity 4.1.5)

The Program completed three capacity building workshops for new grantees. Nineteen participants from six NGOs and four law schools received training on financial reporting, procurement policies, administration and human resource management, documentation and filing, Program requirements and USAID regulations.

The third workshop was designed for the Program grants management staff who will be dedicated to the MOHR grants program. The Program developed a draft work plan to further build the capacity of the MOHR staff to develop and implement a grants program once launched, including trainings on grant evaluation and monitoring.

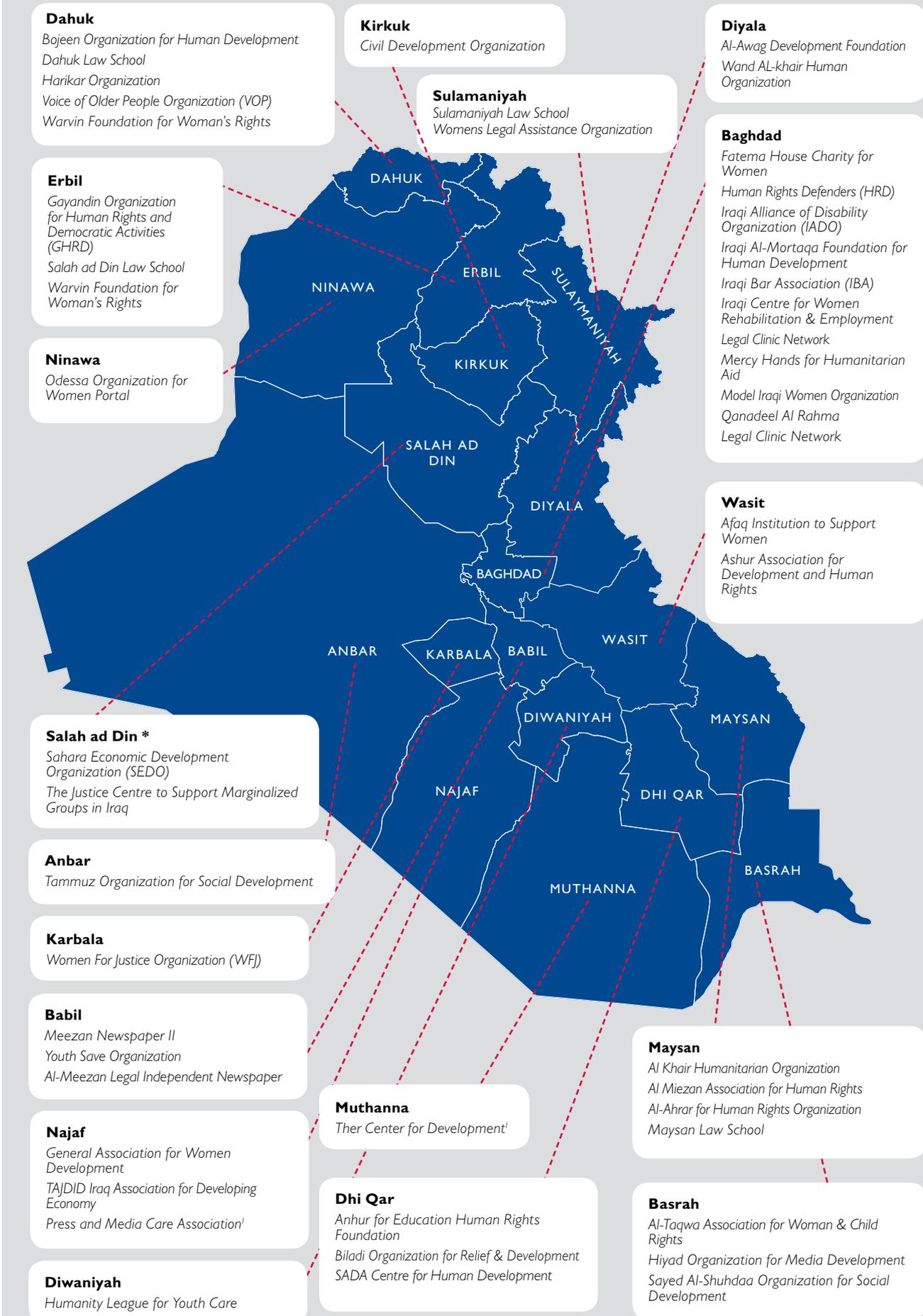
The Grants Manager has trained and mentored the grants staff on an ongoing basis throughout the

quarter. The new grants staff also received training on the grants manual, grants cycle and grant program requirements, risk assessments, the Program's PMP, OMB Circulars A-110, 122 and 133, and ADS 303. The purpose of the trainings and ongoing mentoring is to familiarize Program staff with the tools and frameworks used in grants administration, management of the application process and assisting CSOs in planning Program activities.

## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Al-Meameen Humanitarian Association is 1 of 47 current grantees implementing projects under the USAID Iraq Access to Justice Program. The Basrah based NGO is currently in its second phase of grant funding receiving \$47,000. While the organization began the current phase providing legal aid to vulnerable women, with guidance from Access to Justice, it pivoted the project's focus to serve the influx of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) generated by the current crisis in Iraq. This organization is an example of how the flexibility of grantees works to better serve its populations. Al-Meameen's third grant phase will focus on IDPs, including the establishment of a legal clinic within the IDP camp in their region. This grantee has been instrumental in the ability of the Access to Justice Program to assist the large number of IDPs in Iraq. Many IDPs are missing the identity documents necessary to receive assistance. Al-Meameen has played a key role in connecting IDPs to local government in order to obtain identity documents.

**FIGURE 2. PROGRAM GRANTEEES (DECEMBER 2014)**



\* These grantees are operating in Erbil and Kirkuk due to security issues

**TABLE 2. PROGRAM GRANTEES (DECEMBER 2014)**

NAME	LOCATION	TARGET BENEFICIARIES	TYPE	GRANT LIFE	BEGIN DATE	BUDGET (IN USD)	STATUS
1. AFAQ INSTITUTION TO SUPPORT WOMEN	Wasit		LC	12 months	Apr 2014	\$ 55,300	
2. AL-AAWG DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION	Diyala		LC	12 months	Mar 2014	\$ 91,550	
3. AL-AHRAR ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS	Maysan		LC	12 months	Apr 2014	\$ 124,050	
4. AL-KHAIR HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION	Maysan		LC	12 months	Apr 2014	\$ 74,320	
5. AL-MEEZAN LEGAL INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER	Babel		LC	12 months	June 2014	\$ 69,900	
6. AL MIEZAN ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS	Maysan		LC	12 months	Apr 2014	\$ 61,400	
7. AL-TAQWA ASSOCIATION	Basrah		LC	10 months	Sept 2013	\$ 39,200	
8. ANHUR FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION & HUMAN RIGHTS	Dhi Qar		LC	6 months	Feb 2014	\$ 33,800	
9. ASHUR ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT & HUMAN RIGHTS	Wasit		A	12 months	Apr 2014	\$ 60,959	
10. BILADI ORGANIZATION FOR RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT	Dhi Qar		LC	6 months	Feb 2014	\$ 32,400	
11. BOJEEN ORGANIZATION	Dahuk		A	10 months	May 2014	\$ 36,620	
12. CIVIL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (CDO)	Kirkuk		LC	11 months	Feb 2014	\$ 55,000	
13. DAHUK LAW SCHOOL	Dahuk		LC	10 months	May 2014	\$ 50,900	
14. FATIMA HOUSE CHARITY FOR WOMEN	Baghdad		LC	12 months	Apr 2014	\$ 95,446	
15. GAYANDIN ORGANIZATION	Erbil		LC	12 months	Jan 2014	\$ **	
16. GENERAL ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT	Najaf		LC	12 months	May 2014	\$ 53,500	

**LEGEND**


WOMEN



IDPs &amp; RETURNÉES



UNDER IMPLEMENTATION



COMPLETE



CHILDREN &amp; YOUTH



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



RELIGIOUS &amp; ETHNIC MINORITIES



PENDING

A - Advocacy/Awareness

LC - Legal Clinic

\* Funded by GOI

\*\* Funded by KRG

**TABLE 2. PROGRAM GRANTEEES (DECEMBER 2014)**

NAME	LOCATION	TARGET BENEFICIARIES	TYPE	GRANT LIFE	BEGIN DATE	BUDGET (IN USD)	STATUS
17. HARIKAR ORGANIZATION	Dahuk		LC	12 months	Jan 2014	\$ **	
18. HIYAD ORGANIZATION FOR LEGAL & MEDIA DEVELOPMENT	Basrah		A	7 months	May 2014	\$ 34,000	
19. HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS	Baghdad		LC	10 months	Jan 2014	\$ 59,780	
20. HUMANITY LEAGUE YOUTH CARE	Diwaniyah		LC	12 months	Apr 2014	\$ 62,770	
21. IRAQI AL-MORTAQA FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN DEV.	Baghdad		A	10 months	May 2014	\$ 100,000	
22. IRAQI ALLIANCE OF DISABILITIES ORGANIZATIONS (IADO)	Baghdad		A	10 months	May 2014	\$ 50,000	
23. IRAQI BAR ASSOCIATION (IBA)	Baghdad			6 months	Jun 2014	\$ 18,000	
24. IRAQI CENTER FOR WOMEN'S REHABILITATION & EMPLOYMENT	Baghdad		LC	12 months	Apr 2014	\$ 64,910	
25. LEGAL CLINIC NETWORK	Baghdad		LC	6 months	Oct 2014	\$ 124,527	
26. MAYSAN LAW SCHOOL	Maysan		LC	8 months	Jul 2014	\$ 44,460	
27. MERCY HANDS FOR HUMANITARIAN AID	Babil Baghdad		LC	12 months	Sept 2013	\$ 82,837	
28. MODEL IRAQI WOMEN	Baghdad		A	10 months	Apr 2014	\$ 69,300	
29. ODESSA ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT	Ninawa		LC	12 months	Mar 2014	\$ 64,277	
30. PRESS AND MEDIA CARE ASSOCIATION	Najaf		LC	12 months	May 2014	\$ 81,800	
31. QANDEEL AL-RAHMA	Baghdad		A	10 months	May 2014	\$ 34,990	
32. SADA CENTER FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	Dhi Qar		LC	6 months	Mar 2014	\$ 32,208	
33. SAHARA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION	Salah ad Din		LC	12 months	May 2014	\$ 65,902	
34. SALAHADDIN LAW SCHOOL	Erbil		LC	10 months	May 2014	\$ 51,304	
35. SAYED AL-SHUHUDAA ORG. FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	Basrah		LC	10 months	Sept 2013	\$ 35,720	

**TABLE 2. PROGRAM GRANTEES (DECEMBER 2014)**

NAME	LOCATION	TARGET BENEFICIARIES	TYPE	GRANT LIFE	BEGIN DATE	BUDGET (IN USD)	STATUS
<b>36. SULAYMANIYAH LAW SCHOOL</b>	Sulaymaniyah		LC	10 months	May 2014	\$ 40,620	
<b>37. TAJDID IRAQ FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>	Karbala		LC	12 months	Apr 2014	\$ 71,950	
<b>38. TAMMUZ ORGANIZATION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	Anbar		LC	12 months	May 2014	\$ 88,710	
<b>39. THE JUSTICE CENTRE TO SUPPORT MARGINALIZED GROUPS IN IRAQ</b>	Salah ad Din		LC	12 months	Apr 2014	\$ 76,855	
<b>40. THER CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT</b>	Muthanna		LC	12 months	May 2014	\$ 74,820	
<b>41. VOICE OF OLDER PEOPLE</b>	Dahuk Ninawa		LC	10 months	Sept 2013	\$ 29,520	
<b>42. WAND AL-KHAIR HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION</b>	Diyala		LC	12 months	Apr 2014	\$ 62,800	
<b>43. WARVIN FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS</b>	Dahuk		A	6 months	June 2014	\$ 48,471	
<b>44. WARVIN FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS</b>	Erbil		A	8 months	Oct 2014	\$ 55,300	
<b>45. WOMEN FOR JUSTICE ORGANIZATION</b>	Karbala		LC	12 months	Apr 2014	\$ 93,120	
<b>46. WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE (WOLA)</b>	Sulaymaniyah		LC	12 months	Jan 2014	\$ **	
<b>47. YOUTH SAVE ORGANIZATION</b>	Babil		LC	12 months	Apr 2014	\$ 59,920	

# GENDER INTEGRATION

Gender integration activities focused this quarter on support to the IBA in drafting a work plan that includes best practices in empowering the IBA's Women's Committee and ways to address obstacles currently facing female lawyers in Iraq.

The Program took part in USAID's 16 Days of

Activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign which included participation in the official event Twitter Chat. Online content presenting the Program's assistance to women has been created and presented via online platforms. These efforts will continue into the remaining quarters of the Program with more input from the new Gender Specialist.



The head of Fatema House, a Program grantee located in Baghdad, shares the experience of running a legal clinic during an IBA *pro bono* and legal aid training.

# IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Security remained a concern throughout the reporting period and in particular in the provinces with areas controlled by ISIL. All organizations reported that their staffs are safe and fully accounted for and that implementation will continue, in some cases with modified Statements of Work. The Program will continue to work with its grantees to assess the possible impact of the security situation on the implementation of grant-funded activities, and adjust focus to providing services that are relevant to the crisis but remain within the greater mandate of the program to facilitate access to services.

Activities within the IKR were sometimes delayed or postponed due to transportation challenges. Iraqi Airways is the only way the Program staff can travel between Baghdad and Erbil. It now takes 30 days to get standard priced tickets. Also, Arab visitor movement is more restrictive in the IKR that at times has prevented Program staff coming from areas outside of the IKR easy movement within the region.

# UPCOMING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

## Public Awareness

- **Iraqi Media Network/COMSEC/Access to Justice Partnership:** Launch GOI cost-shared media campaigns to raise awareness of vulnerable group rights and promote services of legal clinics across the country.
- **Ministry of Human Rights/CSO awareness campaigns:** Finalize arrangements with the MOHR to ensure that funds will be granted to CSOs implementing rights awareness campaigns.

## Legal Education and Services

- **Training of lawyers:** The Iraqi Bar Association will complete a grant-funded training program for lawyers on best practices for providing legal services to vulnerable Iraqis.

## Advocacy and Policy Reform

- **Advocacy Committee sustainability:** A short-term consultant will continue work with the LCNAC Advocacy Committee to strengthen their institutional structure. This consultant will work with the other committees of the LCN as well.
- **Finalize Legal Aid Law draft:** The LAWG will finalize the first draft version of the Legal Aid Law and submit officially to the Council of Ministers for voting and forwarding on to Parliament.
- **Disabilities Advocacy Training:** A short term consultant will provide training for partner CSOs in the IKR and in Baghdad working on disability advocacy in the CPRD, advocacy action planning, and in the requirements of the CRPD.

## Crisis Response (UNDER CURRENT BUDGET)

- **Advocate for IDP access to services throughout the country:** Grantee led efforts will continue to ensure that IDPs in their respective provinces receive access to the services they require. CSO partners coordinate with local government, international donors, and other related agencies to support this effort.
- **Targeted capacity development for Program partners in Protection Monitoring and needs assessments:** The Program in partnership with international donor agencies such as the UNHCR and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), will train additional partner CSOs in crisis response, rights-related protection monitoring and needs assessments. Training will take place with a group of NGOs trained in Basrah.
- **Partnership with MODM:** The Program will facilitate partnership between CSO partners and MODM response offices to assist with registering IDPs, addressing legal issues in the registration process in emergency offices set up on the perimeter of the violence-affected areas.

# ANNEXES

<b>ANNEX A. Financial Reports.....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>ANNEX B. Program Deliverables and Risk Analysis.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>ANNEX C. Monitoring &amp; Evaluation Tables .....</b>	<b>39</b>

## ANNEX A

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Project accrued approximately USD 2,979,616 in expenditures during the period October 1 to December 31, 2014. Below is a summary of quarterly expenses and project expenses to date. The total obligated amount is USD 62,879,489. As of December 31, 2014, 88.44% of the obligation has been spent.

**TABLE A.1 BUDGET STATEMENT**

CLIN	COST ELEMENTS	TOTAL BUDGET (IN USD)	EXPENSES CLAIMED Q1, 2015 (OCT 1- DEC 31, 2015)	TOTAL EXPENSES THROUGH DEC 31, 2014	TOTAL REMAINING
1	Component 1: Improve Knowledge of Legal Remedies	\$2,149,246	\$103,305.46	\$1,769,972.13	\$379,273.87
2	Component 2: Improve Legal Education	\$7,425,525	\$440,545.08	\$6,269,915.54	\$1,155,609.46
3	Component 3: Improve Government Processes	\$1,854,475	\$103,515.46	\$1,439,991.78	\$414,483.22
4	Subcontracts	\$25,649,777	\$764,088.81	\$23,125,144.91	\$2,524,632.09
5	Participant Training	\$1,995,019	\$125,901.93	\$1,691,068.97	\$303,950.03
6	Grants	\$8,250,000	\$562,115.85	\$7,173,727.66	\$1,076,272.34
7	*Other Direct Costs	\$5,574,963	\$172,731.63	\$5,447,401.53	\$127,561.47.47
8	Indirect Costs (Fringe, Overhead, (G&A	\$7,575,733	\$358,325.32	\$6,660,168.97	\$915,564.03
9	Total Estimated Cost	\$60,474,738	\$2,630,528.84	\$53,577,391.50	\$6,897,346.50
10	Fixed Fee	\$2,404,750	\$112,229.36	\$2,030,890.72	\$373,859.28
	<b>Cost-Plus-Fixed Fee</b>	<b>\$62,879,488</b>	<b>\$2,742,758.20</b>	<b>\$55,608,282.22</b>	<b>\$7,271,205.78</b>

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

## ANNEX A

# LOE REPORT UPDATE

The project billed approximately 3,745 days of LOE during the period October 1 to December 31, 2014. Below is a summary of the LOE billed during the quarter and LOE billed to date per labor category.

**TABLE A.2 LOE REPORT**

LABOR CATEGORY	TOTAL LOE	LOE CLAIMED Q1 2015 (OCT 1-DEC 31, 2014)	TOTAL LOE THROUGH DEC 31, 2014	TOTAL LOE REMAINING	TOTAL PROJECTED LOE
<b>Long-term Expatriate/TCNs</b>	10,707	473	9,082	1,625	859
<b>Short-Term Staff</b>	1,820	99	1,641	179	517
<b>Local Staff / Professional</b>	51,525	3,136	43,189	8,336	8,715
<b>Home Office Staff</b>	1,147	37	948	199	247
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65,199</b>	<b>3,745</b>	<b>54,861</b>	<b>10,338</b>	<b>10,338</b>

## ANNEX A

# PROCUREMENT PLAN UPDATE

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

**TABLE A.3 PROCUREMENT PLAN**

ITEM	*SPECIFICATIONS	INTENDED USE	SOURCE	**ORIGIN	QTY	UNIT COST USD	TOTAL USD
<b>IT EQUIPMENT</b>							
(none)							
<b>OFFICE FURNITURE</b>							
Cooling Fan for Computers	Cooling Fans for HP Elite 2530P	For HP Laptops in the project	USA		15	\$29.19	\$437.84
Scanners	DVM140 Heavy Duty Scanners	Grants Department	IQ		2	\$850	\$1,700
Printer	Color Printer Brother J470	Media Department & C2	IQ		2	\$125	\$250
<b>EQUIPMENT/FURNITURE SOLD THROUGH APPROVED DISPOSITION</b>							
IA2J Assets	Sale Proceed of IA2J Assets transferred to Sallyport		IQ			-\$2,965.07	-\$2,965.07

\* The specifications are based on Tt DPK solicitation of quotes in January-March, 2013.

\*\* The concept of origin has been removed from federal regulations; therefore, the origin is not being reported here.

## ANNEX B

# PROGRAM DELIVERABLES

The Program contract with USAID requires the production of specific deliverables and reports during Program implementation. The project deliverables produced for USAID by the Program are listed in the below table.

**TABLE B.1 PROGRAM DELIVERABLES**

DELIVERABLE	DATE SUBMITTED TO USAID	DATE APPROVED BY USAID
Program Mobilization Plan	November 23, 2010	December 1, 2010
Year 1 Work Plan	December 15, 2010	February 28, 2011
Program Implementation Plan	January 16, 2011	October 31, 2011
Quarter 1 Quarterly Report	January 31, 2011	N/A
Performance Monitoring Plan	March 25, 2011	October 30, 2011
Grants Manual	April 10, 2011	April 12, 2011
Quarter 2 Quarterly Report	April 30, 2011	N/A
Assessment: Legal Education at Select Iraqi Law Schools	June 6, 2011	N/A
Quarter 3 Quarterly Report	July 30, 2011	N/A
Year 1 Revised Work Plan	July 31, 2011	August 4, 2011
Assessment: Legal Assistance Needs of Vulnerable Populations	July 31, 2011	N/A
Competitive Grants RFA	August 4, 2011	August 4, 2011
Year 2 Work Plan	September 12, 2011	December 29, 2011
Year 1 Annual Report	October 30, 2011	N/A
Quarter 5 Quarterly Report	January 30, 2012	N/A
Community Based Legal Clinic Best Practices Manual	April 8, 2012	N/A
Quarter 6 Quarterly Report	April 30, 2012	N/A
Year 2 Work Plan Revision	June 14, 2012	July 8, 2012
Performance Monitoring Plan Revision	June 29, 2012	July 9, 2012
Quarter 7 Quarterly Report	July 26, 2012	N/A
Year 3 Work Plan	August 31, 2012	December 11, 2012
Performance Monitoring Plan Revision	October 6, 2012	October 7, 2012
Year 2 Annual Report	November 8, 2012	N/A

**TABLE B.1 PROGRAM DELIVERABLES**

DELIVERABLE	DATE SUBMITTED TO USAID	DATE APPROVED BY USAID
Year 2 Baseline Perception Survey Report and Data	December 14, 2012	N/A
Performance Monitoring Plan Revision	December 18, 2012	January 26, 2013
Quarter 9 Quarterly Report	January 25, 2013	N/A
Revised Grants Manual	February 6, 2013	March 5, 2013
Option Years Strategy Document	April 7, 2013	N/A
Quarter 10 Quarterly Report	April 25, 2013	N/A
Assessment: CRPD Harmonization Report	February 21, 2013	N/A
Continuing Legal Education (CLE) course on Human Rights	May 22, 2012	N/A
Law School Legal Clinic Best Practices Manual	February 1, 2013	N/A
Law School Clinical Legal Education Course Curriculum	June 28, 2013	N/A
Organizational Development Assessment (ODA) Tool	June 13, 2013	N/A
Year 3 Work Plan Revision (revision after award of option years)	August 8, 2013	September 12, 2013
Quarter 11 Report Q3 2013	July 25, 2013	N/A
Competitive Grants APS – Law Schools, Legal Service NGOs, and Bar Associations	August 24, 2013	September 22, 2013
Year 4 Work Plan	August, 29, 2013	October 14, 2013
Year 3 Annual Report Q4 2013	October 25, 2013	N/A
Competitive Grants APS – Advocacy and Awareness	November 23, 2013	December 1, 2013
Quarter 13 Report Q1 2014	January 25, 2014	N/A
Legal Aid Delivery Assessment	March 4, 2014	N/A
Performance Monitoring Plan Revision	March 18, 2014	April 16, 2014
Quarter 14 Report Q2 2014	April 25, 2014	N/A
June 2014 Annual Partners'/Planning Meeting Report	July 13, 2014	N/A
Quarter 15 Report Q3 2014	July 31, 2014	N/A

**TABLE B.1 PROGRAM DELIVERABLES**

DELIVERABLE	DATE SUBMITTED TO USAID	DATE APPROVED BY USAID
Year 5 Work Plan	September 2, 2014	October 26, 2014
Report on Society Safety Net Study Tour – 2013	September 8, 2014	N/A
Jessup Moot Court Competition 2014 Report	September 8, 2014	N/A
Values and Persons with Disabilities Report	September 8, 2014	N/A
Values and Unregistered Marriages Report	September 8, 2014	N/A
Values and Widows Report	September 8, 2014	N/A
September 2013 Annual Partners' Meeting Report	September 23, 2014	N/A
Year 4 Annual Report	October 30, 2014	N/A

**ANNEX B****SUMMARY OF RISK ANALYSIS****TABLE B.2 SUMMARY OF RISK ANALYSIS**

RISK ANALYSIS	CATEGORY / TYPE	ACTION TAKEN TO DATE	ACTION PLANNED FOR NEXT 6 MONTHS	SIGNIFICANCE
Major political upheaval prompted by national elections and ISIL crisis may cause delays or result in change of priorities of government counterparts.	Political	Program is coordinating with government counterparts to keep priorities on track, and assisting GOI stakeholders in dealing with urgencies relevant to the political and security crisis where applicable, which is keeping the Program in line with their (GOI) priorities. By doing this, the GOI will continue to be invested in ensuring that outcomes of the Program are successful.	Continue to monitor situation	High
Parts of the country are under terrorist group / coalition control, which is affecting the ability to operate in these areas.	Security	In affected areas, CSOs have become more mobile and flexible in their approach while assisting vulnerable citizens, less tied to physical offices and more reliant on mobile legal teams to take assistance to IDPs in need, since large numbers of people have fled the affected provinces and are now scattered throughout other provinces. Grant agreements have been modified where necessary to adapt to changed conditions.	Continue to monitor situation closely and adjust approaches as needed	High
Depending upon the situation, staff may not be able to work in certain parts of the country located in the west and north which will hamper the ability to monitor grantee activity and engage with target vulnerable populations.	Security	Through the regional offices, the Program has been able to effectively maintain oversight of grantees and engagement with vulnerable people up to present with the exception of Ramadi in Anbar and Khaniqeen in Diyala. For these two locations where grantees are operating, the Program is engaging monitors who are already living and based in those locations to assist the technical and grants teams in monitoring the grantees who are engaging with IDPs in both of these locations.	Continue to monitor situation	Low

**ANNEX C**

# **MONITORING & EVALUATION SUMMARY**

**TABLE C.1 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (THROUGH Q1 2015)**

INDICATOR	FY 2011		FY 2012		FY 2013		FY 2014		FY 2015		PTD (FY 2011-2015)		LOP % Met To Date
	Target	Results	Target	Results	Target	Results	Target	Results	Annual Target	Q1 Results	Target	Results	
<b>0.1</b> % of vulnerable Iraqis who respond that they have adequate access to Iraq's legal system	5%	Not Measured	15%	12%	25%	Not Measured	35%	50%	45%	Not Measured	45	Not Measured	Not Measured
<b>1.0</b> % of vulnerable Iraqis who understand their legal rights, entitlements and remedies	10%	Not Measured	20%	22%	30%	Not Measured	40%	49%	50%	Not Measured	50	Not Measured	Not Measured
1.1 # of campaigns supported to foster public awareness and respect for rule of law	1	0	20	34	40	39	40	32	16	18	117	123	105%
1.2.1 # of vulnerable Iraqis seeking legal advice from civil society partners as a result of Program-sponsored awareness or media outreach	0	0	3500	2065 W: 1662 M: 403	4500	5160 W: 3549 M: 1611	5500	4615	2500 W: 1900 M: 600	1314 W: 906 M: 408	16000	13154	82%
1.2.2 # of person days of education provided to vulnerable group individuals on legal rights, entitlements and remedies	-	-	5000	9318 W: 7312 M: 2,006	10000	23661 W: 18031 M: 5630	8000	4022 W: 1935 M: 2087	3200 W: 2500 M: 700	1872 W: 1028 M: 844	26200	38873	148%
<b>2.0</b> # of civil society partners and legal assistance organizations effectively serving the legal needs of vulnerable groups	30	17	20	33	30	32	40	N/A	40	Reported Annually	160	Not Measured	Not Measured
2.1.1 # of individuals/groups from low income or marginalized communities who received legal aid or victim's assistance with USG support (F-Indicator)	0	-	5000	4842 W: 3868 M: 974	5000	12318 W: 9134 M: 3184	12000	10548 W: 8051 M: 2497	10000 W: 8000 M: 2000	3014 W: 2266 M: 748	32000	30722	96%
2.1.2 # of cases of legal representation to vulnerable Iraqis completed with favorable outcome	0	-	200	1061 W: 824 M: 237	1000	2727 W: 2232 M: 495	2700	1837 W: 1359 M: 468	2000 W: 1600 M: 400	326 W: 203 M: 123	4900	5941	121%
2.1.3 # of civil society partners, law associations, and law schools assisted with organizational development	100	225	100	631	50	50	200	110	40	71	490	1087	222%
2.2.1 # of programs instituted by law associations and law schools	2	0	2	1	3	12	7	7	0	1	14	21	150%
2.2.2 # of person days of training provided to lawyers	210	494	1000	1436 W: 380 M: 886	2190	1038 W: 154 M: 451	1000	701	400 W: 150 M: 250	163 W: 24 M: 139	4800	3832	80%
2.3.1 # of new legal courses or curricula developed (F-Indicator)	0	1	1	1	4	0	2	1	0	0	7	3	43%
2.3.2 # of person days of training provided to law students	0	0	1000	2794 W: 1837 M: 884	4000	5212 W: 602 M: 1042	5000	2928	2000 W: 500 M: 1500	171 W: 123 M: 82	12000	11105	93%
<b>3.0</b> # of changes made by the government to its policies, laws and regulations	0	-	0	4	3	12	7	12	5	Reported Annually	15	Not Measured	Not Measured
3.1 # of sets of recommendations for reforms made by NGOs, CSOs and stakeholders to government officials	0	12	6	68	8	9	7	48	3	5	24	162	675%
3.2 # of CSO advocacy campaigns supported (F-Indicator)	0	2	2	6	7	16	25	32	42	32	76	81	107%

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

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع  
**ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM**