

## Monthly Report for November 2014

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### ***Component I: Sub-Awards In Support Of Jordanian Civil Society Initiatives***

- ***Activity I.A. DRG Grants:*** Phenix Center completed draft research which maps Jordanian trade unions, their stakeholders, their legislative framework and international best practices for unions and began drafting the law. Al Hayat added 16 commitments from the National Integrity System to their project plan. CDFJ prepared for its final focus group on UPR recommendations. HCAC began 'gap analysis' field visits to 20 care centers. IRC developed an MOU with the Ministry of Social Development to resolve challenges in access to information.
- ***Activity I.B. Partnerships for Jordan's Development (PJD):*** Schema continued to face challenges in engaging the private sector, with some companies refusing to become involved because of the commitment requirements, specifically the in-kind contribution of JOD 1K to support CSO initiatives. Schema proposed a redesign of the program and is developing a revised work plan for FHI 360's consideration.
- ***Activity I.C. CIS APS:*** Six awards were issued this month to Round 1 shortlisted applicants, bringing the total to 16 awards to date, with due diligence and final negotiations continuing for an additional 13. Grantees Scientific Culture Society as well as informal groups Invest in Your Trash and Forest Protection completed their initiatives, with the latter engaging 100 people in four cleanup campaigns covering Sakeb and Dibeen Forest. Individual orientation meetings were held with new grantees: Leaders of Tomorrow, Jordan Innovators Society, Kings Road Association and Al Qantara for Human Resources Development. FHI 360 staff observed selected events organized by other grantees, and consultations took place with others to define technical assistance support.

***SUCCESS STORY:*** "Invest in Your Trash" is an informal group of three young women who took their interest in transforming old items into more useful things and trained 31 youth (15-25 years) to transform cans, cardboard, empty plastic bottles and newspapers into candle holders and baskets. Their products were exhibited in a primary school where more than 100 students, teachers and parents visited their "recycling showcase." As a result, the Director of Education in Jerash city offered to host exhibitions for them in other schools around the city.

Reviews of the 261 Round 2 eligible applications were finalized. It was agreed with USAID to restructure the GEC review process. DRG, GEFE, and EDE applications will be reviewed by a GEC on Dec .1 and PFH, WRE, and EDY will be reviewed on Dec. 4. FHI 360 developed an e-scoring process to expedite the GECs.

- ***Activity I.D. Grants for Innovative Approaches in Engaging Students, Teachers, Communities & Parents to Combat Violence & Promote Social Justice:*** FHI 360 completed the design of the EDY RFA and received USAID approval, after which it issued the RFA on November 25 through print media, emails, and online channels. Marketing of the APS continued and the first of six solicitation workshops took place in Amman.
- ***Activity I.E. Inclusive Development/Disability Rights Grants:*** No activity took place this quarter.
- ***Activity I.F. Enhancing the Effectiveness of Grantees and Highlighting Grantee Impact:*** The first all grantee workshop has been rescheduled to January 12; awaiting confirmation of USAID Mission Director participation.

### ***Component II: Capacity Building for Sustainability***

- ***Activity II.A. Targeted Technical Assistance to USG-Subawardees:*** Follow-up meetings with other USAID IPs took place, and plans for customized courses for the Jordan Competitiveness Project (JCP) and Community Engagement Project (CEP) were set for early 2015. FHI 360 followed up with the seven DRG grantees on their ICAT assessments and improvement plans, which required extensive revision rounds and discussions. Overall, the ICAT process proved more time-intensive than planned, but positive feedback from grantees on the methodology and their commitment to implementing the improvements confirms the importance of the process.
- ***Activity II.B. Institutional Strengthening Fund APS (ISF):*** Only one application was received by the November 30 deadline. The status of ISF grants follows: JIOD is closing out pending final report submission; the Jordan Green Building Council award is awaiting grantee signature; modification of the Al Thoria award is under review; due diligence for shortlisted Rasheed for Integrity and Transparency and Health and Development Alliance is underway, with the latter pending technical clarifications from the applicant on its proposal.
- ***Activity II.C. Internal Strengthening for Change (ISC):*** The final stages of Round 1 took place with 21 CBOs represented by 66 participants participating in strategic planning workshops offered by ISC subs JRF and NHF in Tafileh, Karak, Aqaba and Irbid, after which one-on-one mentoring began. Round 2 continued with orientation on the Societies Toolkit in Madaba, Balqa, Zarqa and Ma'an, with 223 individuals representing 122 CSOs participating, after which 127 CSOs represented by 266 individuals completed the two-day toolkit workshop.

84 of these CSOs applied for the IDA phase. Interestingly, CSOs in Zarqa and Theban showed up for workshops without registering as they heard positive things from others about the ISC. Based on demand from Mafraq-based CSOs, NHF will launch there in December instead of April as was originally planned. FHI 360 staff continues to observe the workshops and provide feedback to subs through joint coordination sessions and individual consultations. Reviews of ISC subs' reports and M&E data validation required more time than expected.

- **Activity II.D: Demand-Driven Off-the-Shelf Courses:** Finalization of the off-the-shelf course schedule took place; we will launch the 2015 calendar in December. "Project Design & Proposal Writing for CBOs" courses were held in Madaba and Tafileh. To date 72 participants from 47 CSOs have participated in the four governorate-level courses. Recruitment continued for the remaining sessions to be held in seven other governorates through February. Participant feedback has confirmed (a) that the design of the course is relevant to their needs, especially as it combines theory and practice; (b) participants better differentiate between overall goals, objectives, activities and results and can use tools such as the problem tree and logical framework for designing projects; (c) use of a real RFA and actual proposals followed by a GEC role play provided them *an opportunity to recognize common gaps and mistakes*; (d) the importance of understanding the evaluation criteria and how to be aware of them when writing proposals. One participant commented, "Now we understand why donors reject projects"; another said, "I did not use to focus on reading the RFA before, and now I understood the importance of it."
- **Activity II.E: Intermediary Support Organization Sustainability/CSO Service Provision:** Eight M&E trainers delivered two Organizational M&E Fundamentals courses and began mentoring. A facilitator guide for a "Budgeting for Proposals" course was developed and orientation on the curriculum was held for CIS and LENS.

### **Component III: Enhancing Government-CSO Engagement**

- **Activity III.A: Enhancing the Capacities of Registry & GOJ Civil Society Staff:** Subcontractor Enconsult was delayed in finalizing the draft of the cost-benefit analysis due to challenges in capturing data from the Registry's Association Information System; a no-cost extension was issued thru Dec 21. FHI 360 completed due diligence and secured USAID approval to subcontract ABCD Consulting for the Registry Strategic Planning consultancy. FHI 360's legal consultant completed a short study on government supervision of CSOs per the laws governing societies and not-for-profit companies. The International Center for Non-Profit Law submitted the comparative study of best practices related to civil society laws for USAID review.
- **Activity III.B: Civil Society Research Fund:** No activity scheduled.
- **Activity III.C: Technical Assistance Support to the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities (HCD):** FHI 360 continued plans for the HCD study tour to Washington in late February. A coordinating call was held with Judy Heumann (State) and Charlotte McClain (USAID). FHI 360 organized a joint meeting with HCD, IRI and USAID to explore possibilities for marking International Disability Day in December, and we began translation of the draft disability law. Other technical support to HCD is pending a review of the draft law.

### **Cross-Cutting Initiatives**

- **Activity IV.A. KMS:** Inputting CIS awards in the CIS KMS continued. Staff provided IP support as requested on the Sub-Award Tracking System, but pending USAID feedback to determine follow-up on the system.
- **Activity IV.B. Coordination:** CIS held a feedback session with USAID on the YII Work Plan, after which approval was issued. An IP coordination meeting was held on November 30 to share the CSO assessment tools that FHI 360 is using, including the IDA, ICAT, and advocacy indices. Efforts continued with other IPs: brainstorming with Takamol on grantmaking; brainstorming with IRI on its future disability program interventions; defining customized courses for CEP grantees; and grantmaking lessons learned with LENS.
- **Activity IV.C. Gender, Inclusion & Environment:** The Senior Gender Advisor continued one-on-one mentoring of grantees and analysis of CIS large grants, and designed a workshop on gender concepts for DRG and CIS gender focal points to be held in December.
- **Activity IV.D. M&E:** CIS provided ongoing support to grantees, including in-depth, one-on-one sessions to develop customized results frameworks for each award.

### **Next Month**

- Ongoing/TBC: Continue due diligence/award for CIS APS Round 1 grants; conduct ICATs for new grantees and finalize ICAT reports for others; monitor ISC subcontractor activities
- Dec 1: CIS APS Round 2 GEC#1 for DRG, GEFE, EDE and Dec 4: CIS APS Round 2 GEC#2 for PFH, EDY, WRE; Begin due diligence for shortlisted applicants
- Dec 3: Zarqa; Dec 6: Irbid; Dec 7: Karak; Dec 8: Ma'an; Dec 10: Mafraq: Solicitation workshops for EDY RFA
- Dec 2-4 (Jerash) & Dec 16-18 (Zarqa): Proposal Writing & Project Design Workshop
- Dec 7: IP Orientation session on "Organizational M&E Fundamentals" Training Curriculum