

Monthly Report for January 2015

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

- Per AOR approval, FHI 360 will submit a report summarizing grantee activities due monthly on the 15th.
- ***Activity I.A. DRG Grants:*** FHI 360 issued no-cost extensions to Al Hayat (to 2/28) and CDFJ (to 2/15). A phase II award to IRC was issued for an interim period until its research is finalized; then a cost extension will be issued.
- ***Activity I.B. Partnerships for Jordan's Development (PJD):*** Schema organized a consultation session with representatives from the health, telecommunications and financial sectors to present a new approach to implementing the PJD project based on thematic partnerships with CSOs, with 12 major private sector firms represented. Schema tested its understanding of corporate social responsibility and creating shared value, and presented its idea and suggested process for the potential project with mixed responses. Schema is following up to secure commitments from each firm prior to submitting a full proposal to FHI 360 for a follow-on project.
- ***Activity I.C. CIS APS:*** One award was issued (LOYAC) with two pending (AWLN pending submission of its proposal and Al Masir pending USAID guidance on Yarmouk University's source of funding). Due to FHI 360's current obligation, FHI 360 issued partial obligations to 10 CIS R1 grantees, which resulted in some push back as many CSOs are not accustomed to this approach with grantees. I-Dare refused to sign its award unless a full obligation is provided. Grantees Rights & Development and Khotwetna delayed the start of activities pending Government approval of foreign funding. Procurements for in-kind grants resulted in the establishment of a library/reading room hosted by the Mafraq municipality and the development of the Sanady health website. Due diligence continued with the 30 shortlisted applicants from CIS Round 2, including pre-award assessments, technical and budget feedback as well as USAID AOR feedback on specific grants.
- ***Activity I.D. Grants for Innovative Approaches in Engaging Students, Teachers, Communities & Parents to Combat Violence & Promote Social Justice (EDY RFA):*** 170 applications addressed a variety of topics such as school violence, violence against girls and youth with disabilities, and drug addiction; a majority of activities focused on conducting awareness sessions with youth, with others utilizing theatre, art, video and creating mobile apps. A GEC convened with 46 shortlisted (scored 70+) from 10 governorates, resulting in four days of oral presentations (1/26-27 and 2/1-2), after which the final shortlist will move to due diligence and award, with anticipated periods of performance ending March-May 2015. FHI 360 developed an "exit poll" to gauge applicants' feedback on the video/oral presentation competition process. From the January orals, 12 "strongly agreed" and seven "agreed" that video enabled them to more effectively explain their ideas, compared to 13 who "strongly agreed" that written applications were more effective. 12 applicants confirmed that youth had encouraged them to apply, and 23 confirmed they consulted youth in the design of proposals. FHI 360 designed a streamlined due diligence process, anticipating Fixed Amount Awards for mini-grants of JOD 3.5K.
- ***Activity I.E. Inclusive Development/Disability Rights Grants:*** FHI 360 prepared the draft RFA. Pending AOR approval, the RFA will be released on March 1 with three solicitation workshops across the Kingdom.
- ***Activity I.F. Enhancing the Effectiveness of Grantees and Highlighting Grantee Impact:*** USAID CIS' Civil Society Knowledge Forum took place on January 20 with 35 partners represented by 65 participants. A separate report is being produced but in brief, the first session clustered partners by theme whereby they reflected on the reality of collaborative action with many citing obstacles such as competitiveness for funding; lack of coordination among donors; unequal power relations between CSOs, which results in the stronger organization dominating; lack of CSO specialization in thematic areas; lack of trust among CSOs and weak concept of mutual benefit. The second session, clustered by strategic approaches (advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and capacity building), resulted in concrete exchanges among grantees: Beyond Excellence collaborated with LOYAC and Creativity Club-Karak to recruit youth in Amman and Karak; Al Disi Women Association and Kings Road Association agreed to exchange products and displaying them in each other's areas; Family Guidance and Awareness Center offering to train Tafileh Women Charity Association on case management. Overall, participants responded positively to the Forum, recognizing the limitations for such a large and diverse group of actors and requesting that FHI 360 continue to provide more in-depth discussions/lessons learned on specific topics; broader networking opportunities; capacity building; and marketing grantee resources as well as those available from FHI 360 directly.

Component II: Capacity Building for Sustainability

- ***Activity II.A: Targeted Technical Assistance to USG-Subawardees:*** Final ICAT reports completed for Phenix and HCAC while an abridged ICAT was conducted for the Jordan Green Building Council as part of its ISF award. Recruitment of external consultants took place to support the demand for CSO assessments (ICAT/IDA).
- ***Activity II.B: Institutional Strengthening Fund APS (ISF):*** Four applications were received by the 1/30 deadline from Taghyeer, Global Network for Rights, Tamkeen and Freedom Pioneers, which along with the application from Islamic Charity Society/Salt from December, brings the total to five for GEC review. JIOD's grant closed. Al Thoria final report pending. JGBC and Rasheed grants underway. HADA award pending AOR approval.
- ***Activity II.C: Internal Strengthening for Change (ISC):*** The strategic planning phase of Round I continued with 21 CBOs. The in-house assessment of Round I toolkit trainings continued, and a focus group was planned to probe the initial findings. FHI 360 observed ISC sessions to ensure quality of mentoring and held a meeting with ISC subs JRF and NHF to share feedback and jointly define ways to improve the process, with the deliverable timeframe extended through the end of March to support CSOs in finalizing their strategic plans. *Round 2:* 33 orientations for 427 CSOs (722 individuals) and 37 trainings for 356 CSOs (721 individuals) took place in Ma'an, Madaba, Amman, Zarqa, Balqa and Mafraq. 198 CSOs applied for the IDA phase by 1/30.
- ***Activity II.D: Demand-Driven Off-the-Shelf Courses:*** Three "Project Design & Proposal Writing" workshops took place in Irbid, Aqaba and Mafraq, with a total of 62 participants from 39 CSOs, out of which 24 participants registered for the mentorship component. To date, 169 participants from 110 CSOs have participated in the nine governorate-level courses; despite interest in mentoring, few have followed through, with none completing the assignment. The production of capacity building catalog was delayed; dissemination is now planned for March.
- ***Activity II.E: Intermediary Support Organization Sustainability/CSO Service Provision:*** No activity planned.
- ***Activity II.F. Societies Empowerment Fund (SEF):*** FHI 360 updated its concept for the SEF and organized a focus group with 13 mid- to small-sized CSOs (annual budget of JOD 40K+, three projects or more and 500+ beneficiaries) to test the preliminary concept in terms of viability, priority interventions, interest and ability to commit to the program. All agreed there is a value in capacity building, assessments and strategic planning as prerequisites for growth, thereby validating FHI 360's original concept. Understanding the time limitations for the SEF (12 months only given USAID CIS' current Phase I end date), all recognized that a longer period of performance is required to measure transformation, but said they would commit if given the opportunity and recommended working across CDCS sectors to enhance collaboration among CSOs more broadly.

Component III: Enhancing Government-CSO Engagement

- ***Activity III.A: Enhancing the Capacities of Registry & GOJ Civil Society Staff:*** Extensive feedback from FHI 360 and the Registry SG on the cost-benefit analysis was provided to Enconsult, after which it revised the study. Strategic planning subcontractor ABCD Consulting submitted its inception report and, pending Registry SG feedback, will proceed with planning the Registry Council retreat. FHI 360 issued an RFP for strategic planning support for MoSD's Disability Directorate and is awaiting AOR feedback on ICNL's concept note in response to the issues raised by the Minister in December.
- ***Activity III.B: Civil Society Research Fund:*** No activity scheduled.
- ***Activity III.C: Technical Assistance Support to the HCD:*** US study tour planning continued.

Cross-Cutting Initiatives

- ***Activity IV.A. KMS:*** Ongoing KMS data entry in support of grants and program activities.
- ***Activity IV.B. Coordination:*** Convened a meeting with TAKAMOL on gender-related grants. Coordinated with CEP for project management training for February. Participated in USAID communications workshop for IPs.
- ***Activity IV.C. Gender, Inclusion & Environment:*** Provided ongoing support to grantees as required.
- ***Activity IV.D. M&E:*** Provided ongoing M&E support to grantees and held M&E workshop for new CIS grantees.

Next Month

- Ongoing: Finalize remaining CIS Round 1 awards; continue due diligence for 30 CIS APS Round 2 shortlisted organizations; conduct ICATs and IDAs for grantees; monitor ISC implementation.
- Hold second EDY GEC orals (2/1-2) and begin due diligence with shortlisted organizations; award grants.
- Proposal Writing Workshops: Karak (Feb 3-5); Salt (Feb 10-12).
- Award strategic planning contract for MoSD disability directorate; design ICNL follow-on award as appropriate.
- Support internal audit team from FHI 360's Office of Compliance and Internal Audit; host OCIA workshop on compliance for grantees (2/24) and for staff (2/19); facilitate audit of selected grantees.
- Finalize design of Disability RFA for release in March.