

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

USAID/TUNIS

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

- I. PROJECT TITLE: Legal Rights for Women
- II. PROJECT NO.: 664-0335
- III. DATE PROJECT INITIATED: 09/30/81
- IV. PROJECT ASSISTANCE COMPLETION DATE: 09/30/85
- V. TERMINAL DISBURSEMENT DATE: 06/30/86
- VI. FUNDING RESOURCES: - SDA - Dollar Grants: \$90,000
- AFCJ/Contribution: \$30,000
- VII. ACTUAL U.S. CONTRIBUTION/DOLLAR AMOUNT: \$62,125
- VIII. AMOUNT TO BE DEOBLIGATED: \$27,875 (Due to fluctuations of the Dollar and also AFCJ picking up some costs)
- IX. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project supported the Tunisian Federation of Women Jurists (ATFCJ) in fulfilling certain elements of its 05/09/81 Action Plan. The purpose of the project was to obtain a better understanding of factors affecting women's rights in Tunisia and to disseminate information concerning such rights. The project was designed to cover the following AFCJ activities:
1. Question-and answer (Q&A) guide
 2. Public discussions
 3. Studies of law
 4. Statistical research and analysis.
- X. PROJECT INPUTS: Subject to the rate of execution of the Action Plan, AID provided for the editing, printing and distribution costs associated with the discussions (e.g. publicity, honoraria for speakers when required); contracts with

experts to undertake the studies and prepare reports. AFCJ provided initial writing of Q&A Guide, speakers for discussions, initial writing and activities related to the studies.

XI. PROJECT RESULTS/OUTPUTS:

-- A question and Answer Guide providing quick answers to legal questions about women's rights was published and distributed.

-- At least nine (9) conferences and seminars took place on subjects such as: Female Employment; The Causes of Divorce and Participation of Women in Elective Institutions.

-- At least twenty one (21) extension campaigns took place in various parts of the country on the subject of Juvenile delinquency; Female Employment Rights; The causes of Divorce; Parental Authority and Guardianship of children etc...

-- Research and studies on "Participation of Women in Elective Institutions", "Causes of Divorce" and "Female Employment were completed and reports issued.

-- Selected books provided to AFCJ improving its library services and general information to the public on Legal Rights for women issues.

XII. EVALUATION OF PROJECT/LESSONS LEARNED/GUIDANCE FOR FUTURE:

A final report on this project was prepared by the AFCJ and sent to USAID on July 6, 1987. A translation is attached and made part of this completion report. The AFCJ report is comprehensive. It adequately describes the actions taken to meet the project purpose. However, it is the USAID Project Officer's opinion that the project while successful in meeting its purpose has suffered from its reliance on the President of the AFCJ, a lawyer, a member of the Executive Board of UNFT, a member of the National Assembly, who was very busy and did not have enough time to effectively manage the project. The project officer attempted, with little success to persuade the President to delegate authority

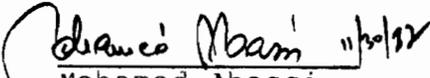
so that project actions would move faster. Other factors, including the fact that AFCJ is under the sponsorship (i.e. control, clearance of financial reports, co-signature of payment checks etc...) of UNFT organization headed by the then Minister and wife of the then Prime Minister, further contributed to delays of project activities.

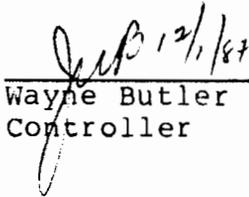
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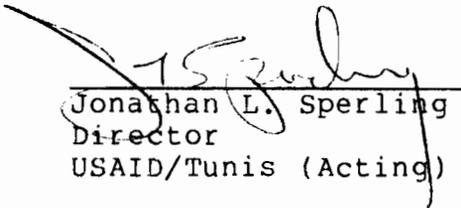
DRAFTING OFFICER

CLEARANCE

APPROVED


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Program Office
11/30/87


Wayne Butler
Controller


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USAID/Tunis (Acting)

DEC 1 1987

cc:
ANE/PD/PCS
PROG-3
C&R-2

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ANNEX TO
LEGAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN
PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT (664-0335)

Subject: Summary Report on USAID grant assistance to the Tunisian Federation of Jurists

Under an agreement signed on September 30, 1981, USAID provided a \$90,000 grant to the Tunisian Federation of Women Jurists in order to finance some of the said Federation's activities. The Federation is an off-shoot of the National Union of Tunisian Women (UNFT) and was created in 1981 to help women get better aware of their rights.

USAID-provided funds were allocated to the following activities:

- 1) A question/answer guide book;
- 2) Reviews and surveys;
- 3) Public debates;
- 4) Studies of pertinent laws;
- 5) Statistical research and analyses.

1) Legal Guide

This guide was designed as a working tool for women and to provide quick answers to legal questions about women's rights. It was developed, for its most part, by members of the Federation with the assistance of the Legal Translation Services Agency (SEJET) which had given the guide its present questions/answers format.

Coordination and follow-up were carried out, through the various project phases, by the President of the Federation.

This guide, with its several chapters on family rights, labor laws, social security regulations, penal law, electoral law, lessor-lessee relationships, is now viewed as a simple and very useful information document. Its initial printing (10,000 copies) was done at the lowest possible cost, so the guide needs to be further improved in future and we are planning a second edition now that the guide is much in demand. Being used as a valuable reference book for women in various regions of the Republic, many copies were provided free of charge to all the regional UNFT branches as well as to public libraries.

2) Public Debates

The Tunisian Federation of Women Jurists conducted, over the USAID-provided grant period, a number of conferences and

seminars which attracted a large number of jurists and women, provided a forum for rich and very interesting discussions and resulted in recommendations being addressed to the Government and other concerned institutions:

- 4 seminars were held in Tunis to discuss topics considered of major importance for women following in-depth studies and collection of related statistical data.

- A seminar on "the Causes of Divorce" was held on December 9, 1983 under the chairmanship of Mme Fathia Mzali, then Minister of Family and Women Promotion and President of UNFT, in the presence of the First President of the Appeal Court of Tunis and other high-ranking magistrates from the Court of First Instance of Tunis (please find attached the seminar's recommendations).

- A one-day seminar on "Women at Work" was also chaired by Mrs Fathia Mzali and was attended by representatives from all departments (Ministries, Trade-Unions, companies). Recommendations put forward by the seminar are shown in the attached document.

- A seminar on "Women's Participation in Public and Political Life", held on March 1985, was attended and encouraged by the then Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali.

The large and active participation of a great number of women in the seminar and the evidence given by women most active in political or public circles gave the seminar a broader audience and a very favorable echo (participation of members of the National Assembly, municipal councillors, presidents of the "Young Economic Chambers", members of the Party Central Committee, girls scout movement etc.)

- As part of the UN Decade for Women and after an in-depth study of "International Conventions for the Elimination of all kinds of Segregation Against Women", the Federation held an "International Day on International Conventions and their Impact on Local Laws". This was an occasion to review and discuss the international conventions contents and to what extent such international conventions were consistent with existing national laws.

In the course of CY 1985 and as municipal elections were drawing near, 5 seminars were held in several regions of the country, namely Tunis, Bizerte, Gafsa and Kairouan.

The major topics of these two-day seminars were municipal elections and women participation. A large number of women took part in these meetings which were, indeed, very fruitful.

Finally, lectures were delivered in several towns and villages in order to make women's rights and women-related laws more widely known and give women an opportunity to take part in public discussions on this subject (see attached list).

The difficulties encountered in carrying out such activities in the remotest areas were due to a lack of transportation means, the more so as renting self-driven cars was very expensive. Furthermore, we always did our best to keep costs at the lowest possible level. I personally, as the Federation's President, made it a point of using my own car and driver in all my field trips.

Another difficulty encountered was the lack of adequate meeting places. The National Women's League kindly reserved the "Sinan Pacha Center" for our activities and meetings, but as this center was rather isolated we could not always draw a large audience, and were compelled to spend substantial amounts of money in advertisement. For this same reason, we thought it advisable to hold the most important of our seminars in hotels which offered better facilities and could, because better located, attract a much larger audience in spite of the extra costs involved. But such costs were not useless, judging by the good results achieved.

3) Research and Statistical Analysis

The Federation believes that the whole of its research and statistical analysis program was implemented. After securing the required approvals, the Federation hastened to select a number of priority problems that were included in its research programs. Three major themes were retained:

- Women at work;
- Divorce;
- Tunisian Women in Public and Political Life;

These three topics were studied by a psycho-sociological consulting-firm (Institut El Amouri et Centre de Prospection Sociale) and closely monitored by the Federation's manager. The studies consisted of statistical surveys, opinion polls and an in-depth analysis of the various themes treated. These studies were the subject of discussions during seminars attended by a large number of women.

It should be noted that this work was favorably accepted by the women community as a whole. This was reflected by the efficient participation of both intellectual and working women, social workers and simple citizens and by a wide coverage of our activities by the local press and other information media.

These studies, along with the various recommendations, are to

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be published in a special edition which would be more efficiently used and could serve as a basis for new proposals and programs to improve the condition of women and make them real partners of development.

4) Library and Equipment Purchase

As it is not possible to publish our own special review on women's rights for specific reasons inherent in the UNFT, we were authorized by USAID to buy a number of books and reviews for our library.

We also hired a librarian to help potential users have access to our library books and materials.

In conclusion, the Federation of Women Jurists is pleased with the results achieved and feels that the grant objectives were reached in spite of the delay recorded. We would like on this occasion to thank USAID for its support which was greatly appreciated by the whole women community.

It should also be noted that the UNFT's financial contribution to these activities was encouraging and much instrumental to the success of this program.

B. Zmerli
President of the Federation
of Women Jurists

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List of Seminars

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>
The Causes of Divorce	Hotel Africa/Tunis	12/09/1983
Women at Work	Hotel "Le Belvédère"	03/08/1984
Women and Public Life	Sinan Pacha Library	03/25/1985
International Convention	Hotel "Le Belvédère"	01/25/1985
Women and Elections 1	Ezzahra	01/30-31/1985
Women and Elections 2	Gafsa	01/30-31/1985
Women and Elections 3	Gabès	01/30-31/1985
Women and Elections 4	Bizerte	01/30-31/1985
Women and Elections 5	Kairouan	01/30-31/1985

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List of Lectures

<u>Title</u>	<u>Lecturer</u>	<u>Place</u>
- Family and Juvenile Delinquency	Mme Jarraya	Tunis
- Rights of Working Women	Mme Zakia Safia	Tunis
- The Causes of Divorce	Mme Ben Yedder	Tunis
- Family and Taxation	Ms Ayadi	Tunis
- Child Protection in the Penal Code	Ms. Ahmadi	Tunis
- Children Custody in Mixed Marriages	Ms. Chabchoub	Tunis
- The After-Divorce	Mme Madani	Tunis
- Women and Islam	Mme Mahjoub	Tunis
- Equality of Men and Women in the Personal Statute Law	Mme Zmerli	Sfax
- Women's Rights in the Islamic Law	Mme Zmerli	Sfax/Kairouan/ Mohamedia
- Women's Freedom and the Personal Statute Law	Mme Zmerli	Monastir
- Work and Women's Freedom	Mme Zmerli	Monastir
- Evolution of Moslem Women's Rights	Mme Dahliz	Monastir
- Evolution of Moslem Women's Rights	Mme Dahliz	Gabès
- Evolution of Moslem Women's Rights	Mme Dahliz	Mahdia
- Women's Rights in the Personal Statute Law	Mme Ben Yedder	Nabeul/Menzel Temime
- Women's Rights	Mme Madani	Tabarka
- Children Custody and guardianship	Mme Madani	Bizerte