



USAID | **IRAQ**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #15

FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 25, 2011

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DISCLAIMER

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

COMPONENT I

IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE OF LEGAL REMEDIES

The Iraq Access to Justice Program is United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Iraq's three-year program designed to improve access to justice for vulnerable and disadvantaged peoples in Iraq. Included in this group are women, widows, orphans, detainees and the incarcerated, minorities (both ethnic and religious), the impoverished, and internally displaced persons and returnees.

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Government support at the Prime Minister's Office of NGO Affairs and the Institute of Human Rights at the Ministry of Human Rights has been strong, with several government officials noting the importance of community voices in light of the build up towards the planned "Day of Rage" scheduled for February 25, 2011. The Iraq Access to Justice Program is standing by to adjust schedules to accommodate requests from security personnel.

- **OBJECTIVE 1.1:** As part of efforts to improve population awareness of issues facing vulnerable populations, build an awareness of how a free media supports justice for vulnerable populations on International Media Freedom Day, and to encourage more positive relationships between partners working with vulnerable groups, the Program is working with IREX and other Al-Mansour partners to host media, artists, and NGOs at the Al Mansour compound. Security considerations may delay the event.
- **OBJECTIVE 1.1:** A workshop to inform a training needs assessment for Strategic Communication Planning is planned for March 7.

COMPONENT 2

IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

- Two candidates for open positions identified for administrative processing.
- **OBJECTIVE 2A.1:** Discussions with World Bank indicate nascent plans under the Japanese Trust Fund related to justice sector services for the poor in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Additional efforts related to the MoJ and Higher Judicial Council offer opportunities for partnership in work related to identity documents.
- **OBJECTIVE 2.1:** Hosted a full day planning session with Pilot Project partner IADO on priority areas of need. Areas identified included legislative reform, administrative capacity, communications capacity, networking skill and access to legal representation. Components are working with IADO to prepare necessary grant documents.
- **OBJECTIVE 2.C:** Interviewed law schools in the Kurdistan Region; the schedule was disrupted by demonstrations in Sulaimaniyah, however all planned meetings were accommodated by a shift to Erbil.
- **PROGRAM SUPPORT UNIT:** Explored linkages between the Program and United Nations Human Rights Office in Iraq. Gender Specialist is developing the use of the Value Chain framework in the context of the Pilot Site by looking at the ability to access social assistance (right to a monthly allowance) by women with disabilities as value.
- **ERBIL REGIONAL OFFICE:** Ten NGOs were assessed using the Component 2 survey form and findings will be incorporated into the Rapid Assessment and related documents; The ERO arranged meetings for the curriculum review mission of Component 2. Meetings will take place next week. Gender Specialist and Legal Advisor created a matrix of NGOs, CSOs and universities within the Kurdistan Region, including the three governorates of Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, and Dahuk.

COMPONENT 3

ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Component 3 Team Leader returned from leave this week and continued work on staffing, identity issues, and disability law.

GRANTS

- Revised Grants Manual was re-submitted last February 24 for reconsideration after a briefing discussion was made with USAID CO and COTR last February 23.
- *Objective 2.1*: Participated in the meeting organized by Component 2 with IADO to discuss and plan the pilot projects. Moreover, the grants team was involved in the feedback/de-brief conducted by Component 2 Leader after the event.
- Completed the presentation materials for internal Program grant training on February 27 and updated the notes on Grant Summary Form.

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

- DPK Home Office Program Officer and Business Manager are currently helping us out in formalizing our Program Manuals such as Field Finance Manual, Administration Manual, and Program Implementation Manual among others.
- Recruitment and Staffing: The requests for rate approvals for the positions of Finance Officer, Accountant, and Office Manager – Basrah were received from DPK Home Office; currently, we are working on having the positions of Accountant and Office Manager – Basrah sent to USAID for approval. A reference check for the position of Interpreter is still pending. Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Muwafaq Ahmed Ali, will report to work on February 27, 2011. Job adverts for open positions (particularly for Component 2, 3 and Basra Office) were advertised in Al-Sabah newspaper last February 23, 2011.
- IT/Network: Installed DHCP server on CISCO router and enabled bandwidth limitations; harmonized the HO IT policy with the draft local IT policy.
- First draft of the IT Policy has been drafted. Recommendations for additions are now with the IT Officer.
- Procurement: Continued working on having service agreements on travel, office supplies, and equipment maintenance; and updating the procurement plan.
- Finance: finalizing the month-end close-out.
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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES NEXT WEEK (April 30 to May 5, 2011)

- LBG home office staff visit begins March 2.
- Symposium on Identity Issues: Policy, Regulations and Laws Limiting Access to Jinsiyah scheduled for March 14; the outcome will inform grant programming for Component 1, 2, and 3.
- Forum on Strategic Communication Planning scheduled for March 7; the outcome will lead to training packages for CSOs and professional organizations on how to develop plans for delivering a message to a target population
- Draft of Rapid Assessment circulated for internal review delayed until after March 3 to allow for further review of the Chief of Party.
- Planned in house Risk Control Training for Grants Staff to take place on February 27 to March 5.
- Multiple meetings for Curriculum Review in Kurdistan Region and Baghdad.
- Planned Iraq Access to Justice Team meeting planned for March 2 to be delayed to accommodate travel difficulties for Erbil Regional Office staff. The Program is alternatively planning multiple in-house meetings.

PENDING ITEMS/ISSUES

- On January 16, 2011, the Project Implementation Plan was submitted to USAID.
- USAID comments on Performance Management Plan received. Per agreement, response on hold pending arrival of M&E Specialist in early March.
- Still receiving applications for the following national staff positions (that were also published in Al-Sabah newspaper on December 23): Professional Development Advisor, Legal Education Advisor and Law Faculty Coordinators (three positions). Started receiving applications for the positions in Basrah.
- USAID approval of Finance Officer pending.
- USAID approval of Revised Grants Manual (submitted on February 24, 2011 per guidance).

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
February 26	27	28	March 1	2	3	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPosely returns from RRB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants Training (Internal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with Al-Munstariya Rector 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Meeting (if security allows travel of Erbil Regional Office) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Meeting First Thursday series – International Freedom of Expression/Voice for Vulnerable Populations 	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMV on RRB 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum on Strategic Communication Planning - Comp 1 	International Women's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipated release of RFA for grants. 		
12	14	15	16	17	18	19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMV returns from RRB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symposium on Jinsiya Law (Comp 3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to USAID: PMP IADO Workshop Design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RdPB on RRB 			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant application Workshop 						