



USAID | **IRAQ**
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برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT #14

FEBRUARY 12 – FEBRUARY 18, 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

- Director General for NGO Engagement in the Prime Minister's Office has agreed to cooperate with the Iraq Access to Justice Program to assist in creating standards for training for NGOs.
- Pilot Project framework finalized, including confirming buy-in from Iraqi Alliance for Disability Organizations (IADO) and ICAN. Mr Waay Kadhem, Director of Iraq Civil Action Network (ICAN) is strongly committed to working with the Iraq Access to Justice Program in both the Pilot Project (as a mentor institution) and in areas such as persons without formal identification (Jinsiyah) .
- Component 3 and Component I have planned a symposium on identity issues in March to outline plans and create partnerships for Program efforts related to identity (Jinsiyah).

- Working with Program Support Unit specialist and other partners in the Al Mansour compound, Component I is preparing an exhibition of artists centered on the theme of vulnerable populations. A tentative date has moved back to March 3 in order to accommodate logistics requirements. The Iraq Access to Justice Program will be inviting representatives from potential partners identified by all three components as well as decision makers, interested parties, and colleagues from other development programs for an inaugural event at the Program's Mansour compound.
- Met with the COP to review planning for a workshop on the development and use of Strategic Communication Plans for NGO's working in the justice sector. Assessment reports indicated that NGOs have not received training on how to develop multi-tiered communication strategies. The recent events in Egypt and in parts of Iraq suggest that there is a growing awareness of the power of social media, gatherings and protests. While the government of Iraq publicly supports demonstrations, there have been a number of deaths at points in Iraq and gatherings are attracting the attention of terrorists. In light of these heightened stakes, the move towards Strategic Communication Planning is well timed so that risks, benefits and costs of a variety of communication strategies can be reviewed by partners. This workshop will inform the development of training modules

IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

- Finalized Pilot Project framework, including confirming buy-in from Iraqi Alliance for Disability Organizations (IADO) and ICAN at two separate meetings this week. Mr Waay Kadhem, Director of Iraq Civil Action Network (ICAN) noted that they had participated in previous mentoring efforts with NID, and that they are strongly committed to working with the Iraq Access to Justice Program in both the Pilot Project (as a mentor institution) and in areas such as persons without formal identification.
- Legal curriculum development progressed with additional site visits to Baghdad University, Al Nahrain University, and Al Turrath University; Component 2 also completed planning with Operations and the Erbil Regional Office for the review of schools in the Kurdistan Region scheduled for next week. Documentation of the formal reform process is still pending. The Access to Justice Program has linked to the U.S. Office of the Rule of Law Coordinator (OROLC) and Baghdad PRT to capture results of the consultative process initiated in 2008 with the European Commission and Baghdad PRT. Several efforts are underway, but to date formal reports from the EC or other sources are not available. The Program will continue to engage as next steps are mapped out.
- Coordination efforts with other partners continued with meeting with the EU JUSTLEX Program, the World Bank, the U.S. Office of Provincial Affairs (OPA), the Baghdad PRT and the Basrah PRT ROL Advisor. The World Bank partnered with the GOI's High Committee for Poverty Reduction Strategies to create a National Strategy for Poverty Reduction in 2009. Some elements in the strategy offer potential linkages with the Iraqi Access to Justice Program workplan; the World Bank has also reported a follow on project related to Access to Justice areas being designed with funding from the Government of Japan.
- Component 2 met with Dr Ahmed Al A'ttar, the Director General for NGO Engagement in the Prime Minister's Office to discuss points of cooperation. The DG is very supportive of partnerships for improving the standard of training for NGOs. The DG echoed many reports from NGOs that it is time to shift to more advanced and perhaps standardized training for NGOs around the country.

COMPONENT 3

ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Component 3 continues to work with Component 1 to develop a symposium on identity issues for March. The symposium will shape efforts and create partnerships for Program efforts related to this issue for all three Components.

GRANTS

- The Grants Team welcomed two new employees; Husam Hasan, NGO Coordinator, and Murtadha Jabr, Capacity Building Specialist. The team identified candidates for remaining slots through an thorough interview process.
- The Grants Officer revised the Grants Manual per recommendations from USAID, updated a provision in the Pilot Project document to assist with a rapid roll out of grants for the Pilot Project, and developed a Request for Application for the review of the Chief of Party before submission for approval. The Grants team is developing a training package for Program staff on February 27, and anticipates a training for potential grantees on March 20.

Gender

Gender specialist started developing a value Chain Analyses framework with dTS home office for use in the Program. Value Chain analysis has been used in a variety of agricultural and economic development settings, but has not been well tested in the context of justice programming. dTS has been at the forefront of exploring the utility of Value Chain programming; as an implementing partner, their expertise will guide the development, implementation and documentation of the model within the Gender element of the Iraq Access to Justice Program.

Training

The Training Specialist visited the Developing Staff Center to gather training materials; continued developing training materials such as Developing Workshop-the Trainer's Skills and Powerpoint Curriculum about Communication for Components 3 and 1, respectively.

Communications

The Communications specialist worked with Component 1 and other staff to develop the artist's exhibition focused on vulnerable populations now scheduled for March 3.

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

- **Recruitment and Staffing:** The applications for the positions Finance Officer, Accountant, and Finance Assistant have been forwarded for approval to DPK Home Office. Two new employees started: Murthada Abdul Hamza, Capacity Building Specialist, and Hussam Al-Deen Hassan, NGO Coordinators. Reference checks for the positions of Interpreter and Office Manager-Basrah are still pending.
- **IT/Network:** First draft of the IT Policy has been drafted. Recommendations for additions are now with the IT Officer.
- **Procurement:** Currently working on having service agreements on travel, office supplies, and equipment maintenance; and updating the procurement plan.
- **Finance:** finalizing the month-end close-out.
- **Security briefings** planned for local and international staff on February 20, 2011. The COP met with Sallyport to prepare for a USAID meeting to reviewing project security footprints and requirements in light of USF-I transition planning.

Erbil Regional Office (ERO)

Component 1:

- The ERO translated documents from Kurdish into English and Program communication documents from English and Arabic into Kurdish.

Component 2:

- 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.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES NEXT WEEK (February 19 to 25, 2011)

- **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 28 to March 5.
- **February 21, 2011:** Meeting for COPs and security providers at USAID to discuss security requirements in light of USF-I drawdown.
- **February 20, 2011:** COTR returns from leave.

PENDING ITEMS/ISSUES

- On January 16, 2011, the Project Implementation Plan was submitted to USAID, which is still pending their review and approval.
- USAID comments on PMP received and being reviewed.

- 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.
- Recruiting guidelines to be developed and implemented to assist Component Leads in participating effectively in staffing decisions.
- Iraq Access to Justice Team meeting being planned for March 2 to introduce staff, policies, and procedures to the Baghdad and regional offices.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
February 19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with Al-Turath Mansour University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joseph Deamay returns from LWOP MOLSA visit by Training Specialist Meeting with IADO (Pilot Project Planning) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey of Law Schools (Erbil and Suli) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey of Law Schools (Erbil and Suli) Meeting with Iraq Health Aid Organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey of Law Schools (Erbil and Suli) COP Meeting with USAID (Proposed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey of Law Schools (Erbil and Suli) Last Thursday series – International Freedom of Expression/Voice for Vulnerable Populations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the Deans of Kufa University and Karbala University
26	27	28	March 1	2	3	4
	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Meeting 	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	14	15	16	17	18	19
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symposium on Jinsiya Law (Comp 3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to USAID: PMP 				