



Free Iraq Foundation
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**HEWAR INITIATIVE TO ENHANCE JUDICIAL
OUTREACH AND TRANSPARENCY
Progress Report
(April 1 - June 30, 2014)**

Executive Summary:

During this reporting period, the Iraq Foundation (IF) and in collaboration with the Lebanese Strategic Communications Consultancy (S2C) successfully held the “First Media Follow-Up Workshop” for 12 Media-Specialists from the Higher Judicial Council (HJC) at Radisson Blu Hotel-Beirut, from May 24 to 28, 2014. The participants were oriented on the following themes: Aligning on the Communication Strategy; Adopting a Proactive Approach with Stakeholders; Mastering Media Skills; Practical Exercises & Simulations; and discussion of Stakeholder Comments, HJC Website Assessment & Recommendations. This workshop aimed at adding more informational techniques on developing media communication among judiciary stakeholders and the general public as well. By the end of the workshop, the participants were very delighted for the increased knowledge and awareness that they gained through this workshop. S2C expressed their admiration and satisfaction with the interaction of HJC-Media specialists during the course of the workshop. On 06/14/2014, IF and in cooperation with HJC has conducted the “First Follow-up Stakeholders Meeting” at the Judicial Development Institute in Baghdad. Participants included HJC’s media experts, media representatives, lawyers, Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights Representative, and partner NOG’s representatives excluding IF’s partner NGO in Ninawa due to the deteriorating security situation. The total number of participants was 23 plus 2 IF staff members. The meeting aimed to follow-up and evaluates the participant’s progress towards achieving overall benchmarks and discuss objectives for the coming period. NGOs, lawyers and the media discussed the communication strategy, obstacles in the criminal justice system and law enforcement, HJC’s strategic positioning and comments, notes and suggestions made by the participants in the First Stakeholders Meeting held in March, 2014. On 05/15/ 2014, IF signed a TOR with Stars Orbit Consultants and Management Development (SOC) to provide Monitoring & Evaluation Services for HEWAR Initiative to enhance judicial outreach and transparency.

Addendums:

- SF-PPR form
- HEWAR FFR SF 425 6-30-14
- Pictures of the “First Media Follow-Up Workshop” in Beirut and the “First Follow-Up Stakeholders Meeting for HJC and Justice stakeholders”
<http://www.iraqfoundation.org/2nd-quarter-hewar-events/>
- Curricula of the “First Media Follow-Up Workshop” in Arabic & English
- List of participants in the “First Media Follow-Up Workshop”



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➤ List of participants in the “First Follow-Up Workshop”

Number of IF Staff (based in Iraq) working on HEWAR Project: 2 Staff

I. Activities and evaluation of progress on goals/objectives

Objective 1: Diagnose gaps in judicial stakeholder relations and establish a medium-term communications strategy and outreach plan for the High Judicial Council HJC

Stage 1: Activity 1.1: Develop and distribute survey on the relationship between stakeholders and the HJC and administrative issues affecting HJC:

This activity has been accomplished during the (October, 01 - December 31, 2013) reporting period.

Stage 1: Activity 1.2: S2C conducts 6-day training of 15 HJC officials and 2 experts in Erbil on setting communication objectives, defining content, formulating a clear communication strategy, protocols for speaking with media and consistent messaging.

This activity has been accomplished during the past reporting period 01/01/2014 – 03/31/2014). IF in collaboration with S2C held the “Communication Strategy Workshop” from January 17 – 22, 2014 at the High Crest Hotel in Sulaimaniya.

Stage 1: Activity 1.3: IF-designated experts hold 3 2-day meetings at the HJC headquarters to provide ongoing mentoring to HJC

The 2 HJC-Experts have continued mentoring with their colleagues at HJC, and provided ongoing mentoring.

Stage 1: Activity 1.4: S2C firm provides 2 5-day follow-up trainings for media specialists within HJC in Beirut

First Media Follow-Up Workshop: The Iraq Foundation (IF) in collaboration with the Lebanese Strategic Communications Consultancy (S2C) successfully held the “First Media Follow-Up Workshop” for 12 Media-Specialists from the Higher Judicial Council (HJC) at Radisson Blu Hotel-Beirut, from 05/ 24 to 28/ 2014. The participants were oriented on the following themes: Aligning on the Communication Strategy; Adopting a Proactive Approach with Stakeholders; Mastering Media Skills; Practical Exercises & Simulations; and discussion of Stakeholder Comments, HJC Website Assessment & Recommendations. Mr. Ramsay Najjar, Founder and Managing Partner of S2C; Mr. Rani Kassab; Mr. Michael Azrak; Ms. Hiyam Auda; Mr. Elil Fawaz. IF directed the



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workshop, presented by 3 IF Staff: Ms. Suhaila Al-Asadi, Senior Program Officer, Ms. Amna Al-Katib, Project Assistant

This workshop aimed at adding more informational techniques on developing media communication among judiciary stakeholders and the general public as well. By the end of the workshop, the participants were very delighted for the increased knowledge and awareness that they gained through this workshop. S2C expressed their admiration and satisfaction with the interaction of HJC-Media specialists during the course of the workshop.

The 1st day of the workshop, May 24: S2C presented their lecture of the following themes: **Stakeholder Identification & Analysis; Communication Objectives; Positioning & Strategic Messages; and Communication Plan**

The discussions included: Mr. Rani Kasab from S2C briefed participants on the communication strategy that was designed during the “1st Communication Strategy Workshop in Sulaimaniya”, reviewing its objectives, the importance of having communication messages among HJC and the stakeholders according to the communication strategy. Justice stakeholders were identified the public, youth, women, media, lawyers, the government, politicians and political parties, clerics, and civil society. He emphasized that holding this workshop by IF represents an example of the civil society role as a justice stakeholder. He added that the justice stakeholders include judges and official spokespersons. The internal justice stakeholders include: MOI representatives; Judges; employees; and official spokespersons. Mr. Ramasy Najar, S2C Director indicated that there are misconceptions about the Justice system, like its lack of independence and neutrality, shortage of judges, lack of confidence and awareness about its role as a consultative or judicial or executive entity. He added: “The targeted groups and justice-stakeholders expects from HJC as a judicial leader entity to enjoy: independence; neutrality; transparency; enablement of financial and moral support as well as protection from terrorism. He indicated that there are two communication goals: a- goals to develop awareness. b- Goals that aims to change behaviors and develop initiatives. Mr. Najar clarified that the strategic positioning aims to build a correct picture for HJC to the public. He identified the main important characteristics of HJC. The participants discussed the communications activities, including: doing entertainment activities; involving the targeted groups in meetings; issuing periodic newsletters and distribute them to media; filming a simple documentary on Iraqi Justice; launching a competition to produce short video; holding TV interviews with specialized personalities; meetings with lawyers; workshops; media campaign to produce the Justice system and its services.

The 2nd day of the workshop, May 25 included: **Communication Plan Implementation Tips; Proactive Media Relations; and Proactive Crisis Communication**

The discussions included: Dina Al Tayar, Project Manager from Starts Orbit Company for Monitoring & Evaluation attended this day of the workshop. She briefed the



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participants about her company and explained her monitoring and evaluation task on HEEWAR Project through the agreement with IF. Mr. Najjar emphasized on the necessity of developing the media communication to be a proactive action, adding that enhancing the picture of HJC takes time and very necessary, and our goal is to push forward enhancing this picture. He emphasized the importance of launching initiatives with a specific communication activities including: issuing newsletters in form of Q&A. Mr. Najjar emphasized the importance of holding an organized proactive annual conferences between HJC and the Mass Media, as well as holding 3 quarterly meetings for follow up, with the aim of creating an organized relationship between them. Mr. Iyas from the Media Office-HJC clarified that HJC-Media Office issues 8 proactive reports on monthly bases. Judge Abdulsatar Al-Bayrikdar referred that he instructed to publicize the HJC-Website on Facebook; one year ago conducted a media campaign in Baghdad, which was a 30 second short play on justice with support from UNAMI. He added that they provide responses for citizen complaints and that they were taking actions to solve them. The participants were also informed of crisis management by communication:

- 1- a- preserving gained trust through previous years, and the judicial association should be able to send a good media component; b- preserving good public relationship with relevant entities; c- Preserving good relationships with the Mass Media; d- Internal sustainable communication relationship inside HJC's Offices.
- 2- Boost confidence between the judicial system and the citizens;
- 3- Working on proving the transparency of the association;
- 4- Identifying and solving any crises
- 5- Selecting a professional spokesperson.
- 6- Unifying media messages to proof transparency.
- 7- Identifying Mass Media and communication channels.
- 8- Always provide a general answer to received questions, directing to all relevant entities.

During this day of the workshop, a documentary produced by HJC played, titled "Spotlights on the judicial authority in 2014". This documentary emphasized on transparency and neutrality, and where the participants discussed it. The participants also discussed the main basics of active communication with media.

The 3rd day of the workshop, May 26 included the following: **Conveying the Message in 30 Seconds; Rendering the Message Engaging; Fielding Questions; Crafting Sound Bites; Handling Persistent Interviewers; and Physical Demeanor**

The discussions included: Mr. Najjar oriented the participants on the media talents and techniques of the spokesperson, emphasizing the need to have organized and planned performance and not spontaneous. And that it has 2 aspects: style of speech, and body language. He added that S2C presented this program specifically to IF. He suggested that HJC needs to conduct training workshops for judges in this regard. Mr. Najjar also referred to challenges that HJC may face, including politicization and special agendas... like political parties and their agendas, MPs and their agendas; absence of organizational systems, where there aren't there bonds for professional rules regarding interviews by



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journalists; the interviewee should be prepared with ideas in advance before holding the interview; rephrasing the question by the interviewee, like to break it to two questions; be proactive; follow up media updates; avoid direct statements; be focused in your answers; avoid mentioning negatives in response to questions conducted by interviewers; constructing your speech in an organized way; avoid long answers; avoid giving negative statement.

The 4th day of the workshop, May 27 included the following: **Aligning on the communication strategy; Adopting a Proactive Approach with Stakeholders; and Mastering media skills**

The discussions included: Ms. Dina Al-Tayar, from Starts Orbit Company distributed a questionnaire to the participants, in order to measure the gained knowledge from the workshop and the progress in HEWAR Project. In this day, a practical practice was conducted with review to the 3 passed days of the workshop.. Also, in response about the activities that HJC take in order to rise up awareness on legal issues, Mr. Iyas, from the Media office of HJC, mentioned that his office is used to send periodic reports to all Media facilities, publishing judicial decisions; summary on terrorist cases; etc. Judge Al-Bayrkdar added that HJC don't give statements by phone. After that discussion, a practical performance conducted in showing how to answer questions in a press conference. This practice was repeated and their performance was very good.

The 5th and final day of the workshop, May 28 included the following: **HJC-Website Assessment & Recommendations**

The discussions included: The participants reviewed and discussed the "First Stakeholders Meeting Report" that was held for 2 days, on May 25 and 26 at the Judicial Development Institute (JDI). The discussion covered the answers of Judge Al-Bayrkdar on some of the received questions and inquires during that meeting, where he indicated: "the answers were according to what serves the judicial authority, and expressed its view that I represent. We held a discussion meeting with the Chief Justice on daily bases, including discussing the decisions of the Supreme Federal Court." He also answered the inquiries received from HEWAR-partner NGOs. He said:" There is openness on NGOs, we made agreements with the United Nations and other agencies, and the Cassation Court Head holds an internal periodic symposium within the court to discuss a specific topic, then we send the meeting result to HJC Media Office."

He added that the judicial bulletin is usually published in HJC Website. HJC doesn't publish a printed copy where that is difficult for HJC. He added that "HJC has continuous meetings with NGOs, like our meetings with IF." Judge Al-Bayrkdar added that : "HJC stopped the online follow-up on judicial cases after the 1st stage due to financial difficulties, adding that in our plan there is a 2nd and 3rd stages, where judges can follow up the cases electronically and we need to have a trained team, starting from judges and ending with entry level employees. We need to eradicate electronic illiteracy and this takes time. Ms. Michael, from S2C presented her congratulations to Judge Abdulsatar Al-Bayrikdar for the noticed enhancements on HJC Website, and she mentioned some ideas



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that would more enhance HJC's website, including: visual design, organogram, and website maintenance; the inclusion of previous activities of the judicial authority; media reports plays big role in enhancing the picture of HJC and its transparency. She also referred to the following sections of the website that need enhancement: articles, points of view, and important and relevant events. She also referred to other issues on the website: the website doesn't reflect the actual state of the judicial authority; the pictures are organized within albums, and in the news section the pictures don't match relevant topics; having added value to the content, including having citizens' documents; enabling the website visitor from interacting through sending messages to the judicial authority, with availability of mail box and telephone number; having investigative journalism in order to receive citizens views on specific cases; having archive, source for all laws, judicial decisions; having section for receiving complains; enabling the public from having easy access to HJC website, through having easy result on Google research; the public should be able to comment on HJC Website on any published news; there should be sections on Iraq areas; section for prisons, prisoners' rights, treatment with prisoners' families; financial laws including duplication of taxes; International laws and its interaction with the Iraqi laws and constitution. Ms. Sara, from HJC explained that HJC Website does show themes from the oldest to the newest. In his response regarding courts' online follow up on cases, Judge Al-Bayrikdar indicated that HJC is following up on developing this project. He added: "We receive complaints, and we answer them and sometimes we take legal action to solve the problem. Regarding E-Illiteracy, we have been involving judges in training workshops to enable them accordingly but this has stop currently due to financial balance. The HJC Website was hacked twice, and enabling people from commenting on HJC Website, we can't do that due to its special status. Also, we have a database for all Iraqi active and canceled legislations and since the establishment of the Iraqi state and have special department for that. We also have an idea of creating an English page on HJC Website. Our Media Office issues a daily report and we have a team that monitors written articles on justice issues." Mr. Basam, expert from Al-Nahar online Newspaper in Lebanon, indicated that the goal of having pictures album is to enable the public from seeing the court activities and interact with. The pictures need to show the Court hall as a reform and not a punishment place. By the end of the workshop, by the end of the workshop, Mr. Najjar thanked all participants, and said: "We have worked with a professional and harmonic team." Judge Al-Bayrikdar thanks S2C's experts and expressed that he and his colleagues have benefited from their orientation as well as thanked IF for offering HJC this opportunity. After the end of the workshop, HJC-Media Office published an Arabic press release at the HJC Website.

Below is an English summary of the Arabic press release issued by HJC:

HJC is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of a five-day workshop held in Lebanon as part of its HEWAR program. The conference was attended by members of the media and press relations arm of the Federal Judicial Authority. Under the



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supervision of the official spokesperson of the Court, Judge Abdul Sattar al-Bayrakdar, participants focused on ways to enhance their transparency and outreach goals. Said a correspondent from the Council's Media Center, the conference resulted in the creation of a theoretical framework outlining a new communications strategy for the High Judicial Council.

HJC's link of the Press release in Arabic: <http://iraqja.iq/view.2413/>

In addition to that, two news-networks published an Arabic press release regarding holding "First Media Follow-Up Workshop", and as following:

- 1- Al-Qathara News Agency: http://alqathra.com/show_news.php?id=1058
- 2- Iraq News Network: <http://www.anbaaiq.net/ArticleShow.aspx?ID=29897>

Stage 1: Activity 1.5: Hold 5-day organizational management training for staff of HJC in Erbil

Objective 2: Increase transparency and outreach to Iraqi citizens through enhanced stakeholder relations and cooperation

Stage 1: Activity 2.1: Hold 2-day First Stakeholders' Meeting.

This activity has been accomplished on March 25 and 26, during the past reporting period (01, 01 – 03, 31, 2014).

Stage 1-2: Activity 2.2: Hold 3 1-day Follow-up Stakeholders' Meetings

First Follow-up Stakeholders Meeting:

On 06/14/2014, IF and in cooperation with HJC has conducted the "First Follow-up Stakeholders Meeting" at the Judicial Development Institute in Baghdad. Participants included HJC's media experts, media representatives, lawyers, Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights Representative, and partner NOG's representatives excluding IF's partner NGO in Ninawa due to the deteriorating security situation. The total number of participants was 23 plus 2 IF staff members.

The meeting aimed to follow-up and evaluate the participants progress towards achieving overall benchmarks and discuss objectives for the coming period. NGOs, lawyers and the media discussed the communication strategy, obstacles in the criminal justice system and law enforcement, HJC's strategic positioning and comments, notes and suggestions made by the participants in the First Stakeholders Meeting held in March, 2014.

After opening the meeting by IF's project manager Ms. Suhaila Al-Asadi, Judge Bayrakdar, HJC's media spokesman took the lead in the session and gave a refreshing presentation to the participants about HJC's communication strategy developed in



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cooperation with S2C, and discussed the comments and the suggestions made by the participants concerning the strategy during the First Stakeholders Meeting.

On another subject, Judge Bayrkdar talked about the modifications that took place on HJC's website, like adding sections for (statistics, Investigative journalism and pictures) which were suggested by the participants during the first stakeholders meeting.

The subjects discussed by the participants were as follows:

Media participants:

- Adding explanation for legal materials on HJC's website instead of just mentioning the name of legal material like (4 terrorism, premeditated murder, etc.).
- Differentiating between investigative journalism and media reports on HJC's website.
- Investigative Journalism, Mr. Abbas Al-Obaidi from the Iraqi High Commission for Elections talked about the legal loopholes in drugs and narcotics cases where most defendants in custody for drugs cases are claiming that the drugs they possess are for personal use and through these loopholes drug dealers can escape justice.

Judge Bayrkdar replied that there is an appendix in the Iraqi drugs law that lists all chemicals considered narcotics and if a defendant possessed any item in that list he/she can be sentenced for (15 years) even if claimed for personal use.

- The banning of videotaping/ pictures in the court room: The participants discussed the reasons behind preventing media from videotaping/ taking pictures in trials. Judge Bayrkdar replied: HJC has a media center that coordinates the media activities in courts, and we have security concerns when cameras are not controlled in court rooms.

Lawyers:

Lawyer Sadiq Al-Ezzey suggested providing a Data Base in the investigative courts that provides (Names and Locations) for detainees for lawyers, since most of the arresting takes place by Army and Ministry of Interior units at night and lawyers cannot enter these units and investigations take place without legal representation for the defendants. Judge Bayrkdar replied that the Data Base is available and currently there are no investigations taking place in the Military units, and if there are any breaches HJC is willing to take legal action, Bayrkdar added, 60 officers have been sentenced due to delaying the investigation procedures.

Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR):

Mr. Kamil Ameen, the representative of the ministry and the central committee for human trafficking cases has mentioned that MOHR has noticed a higher level of cooperation from HJC, and said (we are now receiving more detailed and extensive answers from HJC in addition to detailed statistics, we believe that the cooperation of HJC has increased by 60-70 % than it used to be).



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Mr. Kamil Ameen requested for HJC representation in the committee of human trafficking cases since this is a legal issue.

As for the Human Rights violations, the MOHR is referring Human Rights violation cases to HJC and it will be very helpful if the committee has HJC representation to follow up with.

Judge Bayrkdar replied: MOHR can invite an investigative judge to head the human trafficking committee. HJC also has formed a committee for Human Rights responsible for receiving Human Rights violations complains and then referring them to the judiciary. Judge Bayrkdar also mentioned that he is personally investigating more than (50) torturing allegations.

Civil society:

- The NGO's has expressed their satisfaction with development took place on HJC's website by adding a section for (Statistics), where previously NGO's had to coordinate directly with courts to get the data and this took a lot of time, but now we can refer to the website to get the information.
- NGO's has referred to increase in the level of cooperation between HJC and the NGO's since HJC is now is inviting NGO's to attend workshops that discusses different subjects, the latest workshop took place on 05/24/2014 and it was attended by NGO's college professors and judges.
- NGO's also asked when HJC is planning to share the communication strategy with courts to be implemented.

Judge Byrekdar replied that we are in process of improving the strategy through progressive elaboration with S2C and Stakeholders and when the final version is agreed upon, we will share it with the courts to be implemented.

- NGO's has mentioned that they have noticed a huge development on HJC's website design and content.
- NGO's stated that there is a need to work on educating the citizens about their rights.

Outcomes: the following results were reported by the participants:

- NGO's has reported a higher level of cooperation between them and the HJC. IF's partner NGO in Diwaniya (Awan) has reported a high level cooperation represented by meetings and workshops they are attending now with HJC. The latest workshop was on 05/24/2014 and discussed many subjects including (The lack of TV shows that talks about the judicial authority, the lack the HJC's printouts and pamphlets).
- The NGO's has expressed their satisfaction with development took place on HJC's website by adding a section for (Statistics), where previously NGO's had to coordinate directly with courts to get the data and this took tremendous amount of time, but now we can refer to the website to get the information.
- Mr. Kamil Ameen, the representative of the ministry and the central committee for human trafficking cases has mentioned that MOHR have noticed a higher level of cooperation from HJC, and said (we are now receiving more detailed and extensive answers from HJC in addition to detailed statistics, we believe that the cooperation of HJC has increased by 60-70 % than it used to be).



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- NGO's has mentioned that they have noticed a huge development on HJC's website design and content.

Challenges:

- The main challenge faced the First follow up Stakeholders meeting was the security challenge, the meeting was held in a very difficult security situation during the eruption of Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS) conflict in Ninawa and other northern provinces which prevented some participants from attending including IF's partner NGO in Ninawa.
- The high security measures imposed on the location of the First Follow up Stakeholders location meeting (Judicial Development Institute) which is inside the International Zone also prevented some of the participants from attending.
- Some of the Media representatives couldn't attend the First Follow up Stakeholders since they were covering the deteriorating security situation in Ninawa and the other northern cities.

Stage 2: Activity 2.3: Hold 1-day Final Stakeholders' Meeting

Objective 3: Enhance Iraqis' knowledge about rights and resources available to ensure proper exercising of their rights and access to justice

Stage 1: Activity 3.1: Enhance HJC's website

During this reporting period the following changes to HJC's website has been reported and were verified by IF and S2C:

- The website has been updated with the new logo for the Federal Judicial Authority.
- Two sections has been added to the website: "Investigative Journalism" and "Statistics".
- Three sections were removed:
 - Judicial Bulletin,
 - Sentences
 - Statements of HJC Spokesman
- A new search box has been added for The Federal Supreme Court decisions.
- The majority of the sections seem to be up-to-date and updated regularly.
- Five videos were added to the website of which three are speeches from the opening ceremony of the new building of the JDI, one is a news report personal status courts specialized in marriage license, and one is a report on the judiciary produced by the Media Center for the Judiciary Progress.



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- The Photo Gallery has been updated with new pictures of the modern courts and infrastructure.
- Old material has been archived for future reference in an easy and accessible way

Stage 2: Activity 3.2: Produce “Citizens’ Guide to the Criminal Justice System

Stage 1-2: Activity 3.3: Produce and broadcast 64 TV spots and 200 radio spots on the legal rights of citizens

Stage 1: Activity 3.4: Produce and broadcast 16 TV programs on judicial procedures

Activity 3.5: Distribute posters and pamphlets on legal rights of citizens

Stages 1-2: Activity 3.6: Broadcast 50 30-minute monthly call-in shows with a criminal justice lawyers on local radio

Stage 1-2: Activity 3.7: Post videos on judicial proceedings on YouTube channel

Stage 2: Activity 3.8: Law students hold 20 training sessions for youth and vulnerable women in semi-rural areas

II. Deliverables:

- IF successfully held the “First Media Follow-Up Workshop” for 12 HJC-Media Specialists’ employees in Beirut from May 24-28, 2014
- IF successfully held “The First Follow-Up Stakeholders Meeting” on June 14, at the Judicial Development Institute (JDI) for HJC Staff and Justice stakeholders for 10 HJC employees including 2 experts; 4 media-persons; 2 lawyers; 1 representative from the MOHR; 6 representatives from IF’s 4 partner NGOs; 2 IF Staff
- HJC’s Website developed and modifications are ongoing

III. Other:

- On 05/16/2014, IF signed a TOR with Stars Orbit Consultants and Management Development (SOC). This is to provide Monitoring & Evaluation Services for HEWAR Initiative to enhance judicial outreach and transparency. This TOR is valid until August 30, 2015.



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IV. Challenges and remedial actions

Challenges	Remedial actions
<p>HJC refusal to hold the First Media follow up workshop in the City of Erbil in Kurdistan region and the refusal of S2C to hold the workshop in Baghdad which led to a delay in the implementation.</p>	<p>IF tried to reach to a compromise to move forward with implementation of the workshop, IF submitted a change request to INL to move the workshop location to either Amman, Jordan or Beirut, Lebanon. The request has been approved and the location was changed from Erbil, Iraq to Beirut, Lebanon</p>
<p>On 06/17/2014, IF Staff attended a meeting that was convened by INL in Washington D.C. The meeting discussed the ongoing events in Iraq and the options moving forward in HEWAR activities. In this meeting INL informed IF and other INL grantees that INL decided to temporarily suspend all program activities through July1 effective immediately. INL emailed an official letter to IF with this temporary suspension.</p> <p>Afterwards IF received an official extension for the activities suspension till 08/01/2014.</p>	
<p>The main challenge faced the First follow up Stakeholders meeting was the security challenge, the meeting was held in a very difficult security situation during the eruption of Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS) conflict in Ninawa and other northern provinces which prevented some participants from attending including IF's partner NGO in Ninawa.</p>	<p>The meeting location is secured as it is part of HJC's premises and inside the International Zone.</p>
<p>The high security measures imposed on the location of the First Follow up Stakeholders location meeting (Judicial Development Institute) which is inside the International Zone also prevented some of the participants from attending.</p>	<p>IF staff facilitated the entrance of the participants to the JDI in coordination with the HJC.</p>



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<p>Some of the Media representatives couldn't attend the the First Follow up Stakeholders since they were covering the deteriorating security situation in Ninawa and the other northern cities.</p>	<p>IF invited high number of media representatives to attend the meeting, even though some of them didn't attend, there was a good media representation in the meeting.</p>
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V. **Impact:**

- Judge Abdulsatar Al-Bayrikdar, HJC-Spokesperson, and the expert on HEWAR Project, indicated that he and his colleague-participants in the “First Media Follow-Up Workshop” have benefited very much from the orientation and notes received from IF and S2C during the workshop regarding developing the capacities of HJC’s Media Specialist participants in the workshop on the bases of holding press interviews, and developing communication skills.
- NGO’s has reported a higher level of cooperation between them and the HJC. IF’s partner NGO in Diwaniya (Awan) has reported a high level cooperation represented by meetings and workshops they are attending now with HJC. The latest workshop was on 05/24/2014 and discussed many subjects including (The lack of TV shows that talks about the judicial authority, the lack the HJC’s printouts and pamphlets).
 - The NGO’s has expressed their satisfaction with development took place on HJC’s website by adding a section for (Statistics), where previously NGO’s had to coordinate directly with courts to get the data and this took tremendous amount of time, but now we can refer to the website to get the information.
 - Mr. Kamil Ameen, the representative of the ministry and the central committee for human trafficking cases has mentioned that MOHR have noticed a higher level of cooperation from HJC, and said (we are now receiving more detailed and extensive answers from HJC in addition to detailed statistics, we believe that the cooperation of HJC has increased by 60-70 % than it used to be).
NGO’s has mentioned that they have noticed a huge development on HJC’s website design and content.