

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: PIDC36097

Project Name	Piloting Delivery of Justice Sector Services to Poor Jordanians and Refugees in Host Communities
Region	MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
Country	Jordan
Sector(s)	Law and justice (50%), Public administration- Other social services (30%), General public administration sector (20%)
Theme(s)	Other public sector governance (20%), Access to law and justice (20%), Legal services (60%)
Lending Instrument	Lending Instrument
Project ID	P157861
Borrower Name	Justice Center for Legal Aid
Implementing Agency	Justice Center for Legal Aid
Environment Category	C - Not Required
Date PID Prepared	27-Oct-2015
Estimated Date of Approval	31-Mar-2016
Initiation Note Review Decision	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

More than 650,000 Syrian refugees have registered with UNHCR in Jordan, while other estimates put the number of actual refugees much higher. UNHCR is planning for more than 930,000 refugees by the end of 2015. While Jordan has hosted Palestinian and Iraqi refugees for decades, the current wave of Syrian refugees has created tremendous strain on Jordanian institutions and the services they provide. This strain has negatively affected provision of services to Jordanians, and created tension in communities hosting large numbers of refugees. It has also forced the Government of Jordan to create additional institutions, for example establishing a new family court in Mafraq, to help address the huge increase in demand for services caused by Syrian refugees.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

In Jordan, legal aid provided by the state is restricted almost entirely for serious criminal cases, with few services provided for civil and family cases. A household survey (Legal Aid Awareness Survey) conducted in 2011 found that 20% of respondents or their family members had recently experienced legal problems. The poor and near-poor were the most likely to experience legal problems, but were the least likely to have access to services to resolve their problems. The survey also demonstrated that women face particular difficulty in accessing courts and lawyers. Refugees face even more obstacles, while at the same time straining existing service providers, and may be more likely to face certain legal problems, such as domestic violence.

The importance of access to justice for the poor and vulnerable, supported by legal aid services, lies in the dual impact it has on both poverty alleviation and inclusion. The poor and vulnerable often lack access to services and mechanisms that safeguard and fulfill their economic, social and political rights. Services often prove inaccessible due to the costs involved, the inability to procure legal representation and the fact services and rights may exist on paper but not in practice. As a result, the poor and vulnerable are trapped in a vicious cycle where barriers to obtaining justice reinforce their poverty and exclusion, and thus create a destabilizing factor in host countries. Proper legal information, assistance and representation constitute an effective means of providing such safeguards and protection.

Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF

The project links with the MNA regional strategy by supporting the resilience of Jordan in hosting large numbers of refugees from Syria by strengthening delivery of public services to both poor Jordanians and vulnerable refugees in communities of hosting large numbers of refugees. It also supports the strategy of ensuring programs benefit vulnerable Jordanians. The DO of this project is also consistent with addressing obstacles and taking advantage of opportunities to achieve the twin goals as identified in the recently finalized Jordan Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD).

II. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The development objective is to increase access to justice sector services for poor Jordanians, particularly women, and refugees in host communities through innovative service delivery reforms where public sector services are strained by hosting of refugees.

Key Results

The key results will include: increase in legal aid services provided to poor Jordanians, particularly women; increase in legal aid services for Syrian refugees; and capacity-building of JCLA to provide legal aid services in cooperation with relevant public sector entities, such as the Ministry of Social Development and the Family Protection Department of the Ministry of the Interior.

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

The proposed project supports the SPF strategic objectives by: i) supporting measures to improve governance through service delivery improvements involving partnerships between government and civil society and enhancing institutional performance of the Family Protection Departments and the Legal Aid Referral Unit of the Ministry of Social Development; ii) responding to the needs of vulnerable Jordanians and refugees by providing more effective means to resolve legal problems that exacerbate poverty/exclusion and increase tension between hosting communities and refugees; and iii) increasing the knowledge base for successful interventions in resolution of legal problems for communities affected by hosting large numbers of refugees. Successful piloting of legal aid services will lay the foundation for improved service delivery and could be translated into more systematic reforms benefiting all of Jordan.

It consists of two components:

Component 1 – This component will pilot a legal aid referral system by the Justice Center for Legal

Aid (JCLA) within the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD). MoSD provides services primarily to women, thus most beneficiaries will be women. Roughly 70% of JCLA beneficiaries of legal aid are women. A referral unit will be established to refer MoSD clients to legal aid (information, counseling and legal representation) providers, such as JCLA, to resolve legal problems related primarily to family law (alimony, child support, child custody), juveniles charged with crimes, domestic violence and access to National Aid Fund benefits. These services will be provided to poor Jordanians and refugees. Capacity-building activities will also be conducted with MoSD and JCLA staff to ensure proper management of the referral unit.

Component 2 – This component will pilot legal aid offices managed by JCLA attached to units of the Family Protection Department (FPD) of the Ministry of Interior. The FPD was established under the Law on Domestic Violence, and are a one-stop shop for addressing domestic violence complaints through intake, investigation by the police, and access to medical and social services. The beneficiaries of its services are mostly all women. To enhance their work, FPD would like to include the provision of legal aid services to the one-stop model that will allow poor women to initiate criminal complaints against their abuses, and obtain civil protection orders (restraining orders) guaranteeing them access to their homes and expedited access to alimony, child support and child custody. The pilot will involve establishment of legal aid units in Amman, Mafraq and Aqaba. The centers in Amman and Mafraq will allow FPD offices to cope with increased cases linked with refugee communities.

IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		x	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		x	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x	
Pest Management OP 4.09		x	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		x	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		x	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x	

V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	2.5	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
Financing Source			Amount
State and Peace Building Fund			2.5

VI. Contact point

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