



Success Story

Legal Aid for poor and vulnerable



One of the awareness sessions on "Youth's Rights and Duties"

CHALLENGE

Although Jordanian Constitution guarantees that "courts are open to all", many barriers are imposed that hinder access to justice in Jordan. The government does not provide legal aid to the poor except in cases where the crime is punishable by Execution or life imprisonment.

Several NGOs have tried to address this issue by providing legal aid services to the vulnerable; However, their efforts were limited to specific segments such as women, juveniles or victims of abuse. These efforts in general were limited in geographical scope, which is mostly in Amman, and were not sustainable as they are restricted to the availability of donor funds.

INITIATIVE

Justice Center for Legal Aid is an NGO that was established in 2008 with the objective of promoting sustainable legal empowerment for the poor. The organization tried to provide legal aid services to the vulnerable in an equitable and creative manner adopting a model of partnership with other Civil Society Organizations to leverage resources and expand outreach.

JCLA had awarded a grant from Jordan Civil Society Program that contains several components; to build its institutional capacity, strengthen its structure and create sustainable systems and train its team on different areas of NGO management particularly fundraising, financial transparency and Human Resource among others, in addition to facilitate access to justice for the poor and vulnerable.

The grant had focused on supporting JCLA to strengthen its adopted model of partnership with other CSOs, improve its overall outreach to its partners and beneficiaries, and allow JCLA to continue what it did best which is to provide legal aid services to the poor in a professional manner to help them protect their rights and to implement awareness sessions to educate the public about their rights under the Jordanian legislative system.

RESULTS

- Through this project, JCLA managed to organize eight awareness

sessions, which were attended by 308 attendees, including adult females and youth females. The topics focused on; Lord and Tenants Law, Women Rights under Jordan's Laws and Legislations, Labor Law, Women's Rights under the Labor and Social Security Laws, Child Abuse and Protection, The Child's Right to Play, and Youth's Rights and Duties

- Also, the project helped JCLA develop its financial bylaw and financial procedures which enhances transparency and strengthens its resource management
- Throughout the project, JCLA managed to change its governance structure moving from nonprofit company with three founding members to a professional organization with general assembly, governing board and an executive team managed by professional executive director.
- JCLA provided 389 legal consultations and 226 representation in the courts to vulnerable and poor people on different cases such as Civil, Criminal, Sharia and others
- Based on the technical assistant JCLA developed in the field of fundraising through the project, JCLA received approval for a new funding from Japanese Social Development to fund a three year project which will allow JCLA to establish a national network of legal aid clinics. This new project will help in establishing a system of a national legal aid system that they hope to be adopted by the government of Jordan and the Jordan Bar Association creating institutionalized and sustainable legal aid system guaranteeing justice for all.