



RECONSTRUCTION WEEKLY UPDATE

March 17, 2005



Iraqi workers repair joints at the Rustimiyah North wastewater treatment plant in Baghdad.

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USAID assists Iraqis in reconstructing their country by working with Iraq’s Interim Government. Programs are implemented in coordination with the United Nations, country partners, nongovernmental organizations and private sector partners.

This report highlights USAID’s overall accomplishments and recent reconstruction efforts in Iraq. For more information, please visit www.usaid.gov/iraq.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- By October, 2003, rehabilitated electric power capacity to produce peak capacity greater than the pre-war level of 4,400 MW. Production reached 5,365 MW on August 18, 2004.
- Since achieving record power production in Summer '04, the Ministry of Electricity—with assistance from USAID—has begun the standard Fall maintenance process which will necessarily reduce the amount of power available for consumption. USAID worked with the MOE to conduct last Fall's maintenance program.
- Repairing thermal units, replacing turbines, rehabilitating the power distribution network, and installing and restoring generators.
- USAID has added 600 MW of capacity through maintenance and rehabilitation work, and also repaired a 400 KV transmission line.
- USAID and the Ministry of Electricity are working with partners to add a total of more than 792 MW to the national grid by December 2005 through maintenance, rehabilitation, and new generation projects.
- USAID completed a project to convert two units that produce 80 MW each to operate on crude/heavy fuel oil instead of diesel which is in short supply.
- USAID initiated a project to rehabilitate 13 existing substations and construct 24 new substations in Baghdad. These 37 substations will improve the distribution and reliability of electricity for more than two million Baghdad residents. USAID recently handed over work on 12 of these substations to the Ministry of Electricity.

USAID's goals include the emergency repair or rehabilitation of power generation facilities and electrical grids. Teams of engineers from the Ministry of Electricity, USAID and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been working since May of 2003 to restore the capacity of Iraq's power system.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Work is more than 71% complete in the expansion of a power plant in the south of Baghdad. Recently, fire water supports for the main transformer have been completed. Work is continuing on the construction of a retaining wall, the installation and welding of cooling water and drain piping, and the installation of ventilation equipment. Exhaust stack work is ongoing, and work has begun on a deionization unit.



Baghdad South power plant

Establishing a reliable power supply for Baghdad continues to be a key goal of USAID's reconstruction efforts in Iraq; with power intermittent on most days, improvements are badly needed. In response to this need, USAID is working to provide new generation capacity at the site of an existing mid-sized thermal power plant in southern Baghdad. Because it is serviced by a heavy fuel pipeline and can accommodate expansion, Baghdad South was designated by the Ministry of Electricity for additional electrical generation capacity. This project has two phases and is scheduled to be complete in July 2005.

Another round of trainings has recently begun under the Power Plant Operations and Maintenance Training program of USAID's Iraq Infrastructure Reconstruction program. The goal of the program is two-fold. First, it is meant to be a short-term source of spare parts and technical support services to alleviate some immediate problems within the Ministry of Electricity's power plants. Secondly, for long-term improvement through training, it will establish a tradition of best operational practices and modern management techniques.

The total electrical generation capacity for Iraq's thermal and combustion power infrastructure is nearly 10,000 MW although it has generally performed at 35%-50% of rated capacity (3,500 to 5,000 MW). Classroom training has begun for 239 Iraqi staff in tiers corresponding to their O&M management level in the Ministry of Electricity (MoE). Tier 1, for five senior ME staff, imparts leadership and strategy training at General Electric's Center for Excellence in the United States. Tier 2 trains 36 plant managers in leadership, advanced plant management and electrical business development at the University of Georgia in the US. Tier 3, train-the-trainer instruction, teaches combustion plant and thermal plant operations to 83 senior power plant staff—foremen and other plant supervisory personnel—at the University of Jordan in Amman. Finally, Tier 4 for 115 plant operators and technicians includes training on calibration and boiler and water chemistry at the University of Jordan. On-the-job-training at several Baghdad thermal plants is also included. The first Tier 3 class has already completed its four week training at the University of Jordan. A second Tier 3 class began training in late February 20. This Tier will also be receiving "Train the Trainer" instruction.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- **Nationwide:** Repaired various sewage lift stations and water treatment units.
- **Baghdad:** Expanding and rehabilitating one water treatment plant and constructing another to increase capacity by approximately 120 million gallons per day; rehabilitating sewage treatment plants.
 - A major wastewater treatment plant in Baghdad began operating in June of 2004; this is the first major sewage plant in the country to operate in over 12 years.
 - The sewage treatment system in Baghdad, barely functioning for years before the conflict, will be restored to almost 100-percent capacity, serving 80 percent of Baghdad's population.
 - Standby generators are being installed at 41 Baghdad water facilities.
- **South:** Rehabilitated parts of the Sweet Water Canal system, including repairing breaches, cleaning the main reservoir, and refurbished 14 water treatment plants around Basrah serving 1.75 million people.
- **South Central:** Rehabilitating two water plants and four sewage plants.
 - Completed the rehabilitation of a sewage plant in Babil Governorate.
 - Sewage plants in An Najaf, Al Qadisiyah, Karbala, and Babil Governorates will serve 440,000 upon completion.
 - Water treatment in Najaf and Babil will serve residents and visitors at Iraq's holiest shrines.
- **North:** Completed rehabilitation of Kirkuk water plant and continuing refurbishment of sewage plant near Mosul.

USAID's goal is to improve the efficiency and reliability of existing water and wastewater treatment facilities, especially those in the south where water quantity and quality are particularly low. An anticipated 11.8 million Iraqis will benefit from USAID's \$600 million in water and sanitation projects.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

USAID's work to rehabilitate the Rustimiyah North Wastewater Treatment Plant is about 80% complete. One of the plant's two processing systems has begun to receive sewage flows allowing for operation at about half of its capacity, or 179,000 cubic meters/day. Final inspections have begun on the functioning system and will continue through the first week of March. Hydrostatic testing of piping and installation of gratings is ongoing. Both systems are expected to be complete by the end of April. About 33% of Baghdad's effluent sewage flow from 4.8 million people is collected by sewer trunk lines and conveyed to this sewage treatment plant.



Rustimiyah North processing train

A Community Association of a municipality in Babil Governorate worked with the Community Action Program (CAP) to install a 1,250-meter water pipe connecting the neighborhood's potable water network to the city's water system. This neighborhood, with a population of 5,600, had been deliberately neglected under the former regime, and the existing potable water network had not been maintained for decades. The network was not sufficient to serve the needs of neighborhood residents. The 10-member community association agreed that this was their first priority.

A CAP project improved the sanitation standards of the Immarat neighborhood in Baghdad by supplying mobile garbage bins and removing existing garbage from the area. After the war, trash pickups in Immarat became sporadic. Often, garbage collectors would skip routes in poor areas to work in neighborhoods where residents would tip collectors for extra service. Consequently, poor neighborhoods such as Immarat became massive dumps. In addition, garbage containers in the residential complex were either looted or too old to be used. A part of the community contribution is to ensure the sustainability of the project by arranging for the daily arrival of garbage collectors to the area.

Engineers are implementing the Baghdad Water Distributions Mains project with USAID support. This undertaking involves modeling the distribution system and repairing, replacing and installing new water pipes in Sadr City. The modeling task, constituting 20% of the project, will collect data on and conduct a survey of major water mains in the city. The remaining eighty percent of the task will include extensive repair and replacement of mains, distribution pipes, and valves. With 25km of pipe installed as of late February, USAID expects to complete the project by the end of December 2005.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

• Facilities

- Awarded 627 grants worth more than \$6 million to rehabilitate schools and equip Directorates General.
- Rehabilitated 2,405 schools countrywide.

• Supplies

- Distributed desks, chairs, cabinets, chalkboards, and kits for primary and secondary schools countrywide.
- Printed and distributed 8.7 million revised math and science textbooks to grades 1-12 by mid-February 2004.

• Institutional Strengthening

- Completed a major initiative that trained nearly 33,000 secondary school teachers and administrators, including 860 master trainers, nationwide.
- Conducted a pilot accelerated learning program in five Iraqi cities to allow out-of-school children to complete two school years in one year. More than 550 students participated.
- Assisted the Ministry in establishing official baseline education data for Iraq.

• Higher Education

- Awarded five grants worth \$20.7 million to create partnerships between 10 Iraqi universities and U.S. counterparts in the Higher Education and Development (HEAD) program.
- The HEAD program has provided training opportunities for approximately 1,000 Iraqi faculty and students, awarded more than 75 mini-grants, and supported a dozen graduate students in full-time study.
- HEAD is helping Iraqi universities rebuild and re-equip facilities; send students and professors to international conferences; and reform curricula.

USAID's goals are to increase enrollment, improve primary and secondary education, ensure classrooms have sufficient supplies, facilitate community involvement, train teachers, implement accelerated learning programs, and establish partnerships between U.S. and Iraqi colleges and universities.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Four Iraqi scholars currently studying at the University of Hawaii visited the Komohana Agricultural Research Complex to learn about their activities in forestry, vegetable production, plant protection, invasive species management, and youth education. The professors also visited Hawaiian agricultural entrepreneurial success stories including Big Island Candies, Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Farm, and several papaya farms.



A visit to Oahu's Poamoho agroforestry plot

Eighteen Iraqi faculty and students currently studying at the University of Hawaii through the Higher Education and Development (HEAD) program completed a three-week library skills training course. The class sessions covered the use of electronic indexes and other resources in conducting agriculture research.

By participating in such training programs, Iraqi professors and graduate students will be able to improve the quality of research at their home institutions, and thereby contribute to improvements in the practice of agriculture, the largest sector of Iraq's economy in terms of employment.

The State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook used a HEAD program grant to support an eight-day environmental health conference in mid-February in Amman, Jordan geared towards training Iraqi medical doctors in environmental health. Forty Iraqi doctors, including 15 female delegates, attended lectures and problem solving discussions covering topics such as environmental toxicology, the Iraqi environment, and current teaching methodologies.

SUNY/Stony Brook will sponsor 13 faculty members and graduate students in archaeology from universities around Iraq to attend the first International Conference on Islamic Archaeology in Istanbul next month. The conference will allow Iraqi academics to meet with colleagues to network, thereby contributing to the reintegration of Iraqi Archaeology academics with the world community.

The Community Action Program implementing partner working in Ninawa' Governorate is helping a town renovate its 12-room school. Currently, the town does not have a secondary school for girls; consequently, girls stay home after completing primary school. Renovating the school solved three problems: girls now have a secondary school; primary students can leave the kindergarten building and return to the regular school; and the kindergarten is able to house the dual-language kindergarten program for 65 Arab and 50 Kurdish children. The project cost \$47,051 and the community contribution was \$13,300.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Developed WTO Accession Roadmap in cooperation with Iraqi officials.
- Provided technical assistance as well as information on contracting opportunities for Iraqi businesses and entrepreneurs through business centers.
- Worked with the Ministry of Finance to introduce the new Iraqi dinar.
- Created more than 77,000 public works jobs through the National Employment Program.
- Provided technical assistance on accounting, budgeting and lending activities at Iraq's commercial banks. Trained 116 bankers from the Rafidain and Rasheed banks in six training courses.
- Assisted in management of \$21 million micro-credit program.
- Improved statistical analysis, monetary policymaking, and bank supervision procedures at Iraq's Central Bank; offered a two-week banking course to Central Bank staff with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.
- Evaluated and updated commercial laws on private sector and foreign investment.
- Assisted in developing the five percent reconstruction levy on imports; built capacity of customs officials to implement levy.
- Developed a government-wide IT strategy to support the automation of planning, budgeting and reporting processes across ministries.
- Provided technical support for the re-opening of the Iraq Stock Exchange after it was closed down for more than 15 months; 3.6 billion Iraqi dinars (\$2.4 million USD) in shares were traded in the first day.

USAID supports sustainable economic reforms in Iraq including examining and reforming laws, regulations, and institutions and providing a framework for private sector trade, commerce, and investment. The reforms will strengthen the Central Bank and the Ministries of Finance, Trade, Commerce and Industry—among others.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

USAID's Iraq Economic Governance II (IEG II) program cooperates with Iraqi partners to build local capacity to modernize and regulate utilities.

As this effort moves forward, Iraqis in the electricity and telecommunications industries are adopting international best practices, and moving toward commercial viability and away from state subsidies.

Electricity. IEG II recently completed a draft paper on meter manufacturers and technology available in Iraq, with recommendations for further action. The paper includes a spreadsheet with information and contact details on meter suppliers in the country. The work will ultimately help Iraqi electricity regulators measure consumption and bill consumers appropriately.

Telecommunications. IEG II and its Iraqi partners are also building capacity in the telecommunications sector. IEG II is currently engaged with the National Communication Media Commission in developing their institutional capacity as the regulator of the Telecom sector. Advisors are also providing technical assistance on the drafting of a Request For Information (RFI) for wireless capabilities.

Work is continuing on programs to promote the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) in Iraq. Under the previous regime, it was difficult for would-be entrepreneurs to access the resources they needed to start new business enterprises or exercise their business acumen.

Recent activities have included a second round of the "Micro Finance Pillars" course for 25 participants in Amman, Jordan. PSD II advisors are also preparing a training plan for intensive capacity building of Iraqi staff working in non-bank financial institutions. A strategy paper has been prepared that outlines the needs and key steps for sustainable development of the micro-finance industry in the country and an analysis has been prepared on emerging trends in MSME finance. Recently, credit application, analysis and approval forms were developed for Iraqi banks that are establishing MSME programs. A risk rating system and loan terms and conditions have also been established.

There is an urgent need to increase employment in Iraq. Developing micro-finance lending will help address this need by making it possible for poorer Iraqis and people in rural areas to finance small-scale projects. Successful microfinance activities will serve as models for future activities.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- **Summer and Winter Crop Technology Demonstrations:** These demonstrations are introducing farmers to new technologies and techniques through extension field days.
- **Animal Health:** Several veterinary clinics in Kirkuk, Fallujah, and other cities are being renovated and a grant has been made for dipping tanks to improve sheep health and wool.
- **Technology Support:** The Ministry of Agriculture and a major university's schools of Agriculture and Veterinary Science have been awarded grants to furnish and equip computer centers, improving research capabilities and consulting capacity.
- **Date Palm Propagation:** In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, 40,000 elite date palm offshoots are being used to establish mother orchards in 13 governorates as part of a multiplication program and the establishment of a national register of elite varieties.
- **Agriculture Sector Transition Plan:** This plan, completed in mid-April, addresses the short-term recovery of agricultural infrastructure as well as medium and long-term implementation of policies to develop a market-based agricultural economy.

USAID's goals are to work in conjunction with Iraqi ministries, the private sector, and higher education institutions to revitalize agricultural production, stimulate income and employment generation, nurture rural initiatives, and rehabilitate the natural resource base.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Representatives from the Agricultural Reconstruction and Development for Iraq (ARDI) program met with the Director General from the State Board for Date Palms of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) to discuss four proposals to improve date production and date palm breeding. In 2004,

ARDI provided \$250,000 to assist the MOA's National Program for the Improvement of Date Palms (now the State Board for Date Palms) to establish 21 mother orchards in the 13 date-producing governorates in order to preserve varieties, create a gene bank, and produce new offshoots for regeneration.

Now the MOA wishes to expand the area of 16 of the 21 mother orchards already established and to add additional mother orchards to increase available plant stock with ARDI assistance.

The date palm – nakhla in Arabic – is a primary economic and symbolic foundation of Iraq's agriculture sector. At one time, Iraq exported a large portion of its total date production; Iraqi date exports accounted for 30 percent of the total global supply of dates. Some Iraqi dates are high-end varieties. These varieties are demanded in markets around the world for their high sugar content and superb flavor and texture. Under the Saddam Hussein regime, the number of date palms declined by 50 percent.

The ARDI program is assisting the MOA to revitalize the national wheat program. The Ministry of Trade's policy for the 2005 crop cycle is to purchase top-grade wheat from farmers at an attractive price. This incentive to produce higher quality and increased quantities of wheat has stimulated wheat farmers and the MOA to accelerate the national production program. Among other activities, the ARDI Wheat Program is providing assistance to the MOA certified seed program. ARDI is also exploring ways to assist private sector seed and grain processors at the village level. Farmers are not equipped at this time to clean their market wheat to top-grade standards.



The date palm is a symbol of Iraqi agriculture.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Established regional offices in Al Basrah, Al Hillah, Baghdad, and Mosul and operations in all governorates.
- Awarded \$15.5 million in rapid-response grants in the first program year to strengthen the capacity of municipal authorities to deliver core municipal services. The grants were used to restore services in agriculture, education, health, electricity, sanitation, and water.
- Facilitated the establishment and refreshment of 16 governorate councils, 90 district councils, 194 city or sub-district councils, and 445 neighborhood councils.
- Organized and facilitated numerous selection processes for governors and mayors, as well as local council members, throughout Iraq.
- Committed more than \$2.4 million for the nationwide Civic Education Campaign, which educates Iraqis on democracy and Iraq's political situation. More than 28,500 democracy dialogues have been conducted to date.
- Supported preparation of 2004 city council budgets in Baghdad, Mosul, Al Hillah, Babil, and An Najaf.
- Supporting a series of National Agenda Dialogue Conferences, which engage stakeholders such as academics, journalists, women, tribal leaders, and local government officials in discussions on their roles in Iraq's emerging democracy.

USAID's Local Governance Program (LGP) goals include promoting representative citizen participation in governance; strengthening the management skills of city and provincial administrations and civic institutions; promoting advocacy and participation of civil society organizations; enhancing leadership skills; and serving as a recruiting tool for future leaders.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Local Governance Program (LGP) specialists are working in Basrah governorate to improve the capacity of regional government offices to deliver services to constituents. The Basrah Tax Office recently renovated its facilities with the support of an LGP Grant. The new offices will provide work space for 139 Basrah and Ashar Tax Office employees and support the LGP training and technical assistance program for the Basrah Tax Directorate. LGP staff also met with managerial staff at the Tax Office to discuss the possibility of automating taxpayer records for more efficient operations.

LGP is working with the governorate's Education Directorate to produce the monthly payroll database for the Directorate's 24,000 employees. LGP specialists also continued to assist USAID's South Regional Program Office in creating a database of schools for the Basrah Education Directorate's Planning Department. When complete, the database will provide invaluable information on the status of the rehabilitation efforts of Basrah schools and statistical data for planning purposes.

LGP specialists continued working with the Basrah Health Directorate (BHD) to develop a financial accounting program to improve the BHD's capacity to manage the financial transactions of the 11 hospitals and nearly 50 clinics under its umbrella.

Finally, LGP staff continued developing a comprehensive database of vehicles and mechanized equipment for the headquarters of the Basrah Municipality. The database will allow the Municipality to track the entire fleet of vehicles throughout the 15 divisions that fall under the Municipality's purview.

LGP specialists in Wasit governorate recently worked with the Wasit Agriculture Laboratory to provide a week-long training for 20 technical staff members from the Wasit Agriculture Directorate. The training focused on testing and verifying the viability of crop seeds. Testing seed germination will help farmers select seeds that are viable and will be translated into improved yields.

In late February, LGP specialists completed an intensive four-day management and supervisory skills training for 44 officials from the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) Council of Ministries. Training topics were selected and based on pre-workshop individual and organizational assessments which were revised daily as a result of participant involvement.

In February, LGP specialists working in Al Kut in Wasit Governorate facilitated important training sessions for local government staff. Eight days of basic computer training were held for 25 Wasit Directorate of Agriculture technicians. LGP specialists also completed four days of training for 20 technicians focusing on the use of laboratory equipment to analyze soil.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen the capacity of the legislative branch of the Iraqi interim and transitional governments and its staff during the interim and transition period to include lawmaking, representation, executive oversight, and other responsibilities as provided by the Transitional Administrative Law (TAL)
- Assist the Executive Authority, the Presidency Council, and the Council of Ministers and its presiding Prime Minister to develop governing processes, rules of procedure, regulations and directives necessary to enforce the laws, and to implement government programs and policies
- Support the process for adoption of an Iraqi constitution that promotes democratic principles and values through the provision of technical assistance that includes, but is not limited to, providing comparative constitutional expertise; organizing constitutional conferences and conventions; facilitating public awareness, education, and participation; and assisting in the conduct of a national referendum or other ratifying mechanism.

In the post-election period, USAID will continue to plan and implement a variety of programs matching the needs of the evolving Iraqi democracy, undertaken in full partnership with Iraqi counterparts. In particular USAID is accelerating activities in the national governance support area to ensure comprehensive continued support to the Iraqi democratic transition.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

The Iraq Civil Society and Media Support Program (ICSP) has two major goals: to fully develop local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that promote and empower Iraqi citizens to actively participate in their government; and to develop the capacity of Iraq's mass media institutions (radio, TV and print media) so they are better able to cover civil society news, calling particular attention to gender, anti-corruption, human rights and civic education. This past month two trainings were held, one CSOs and one for journalists.

A three-day workshop was held in February for Iraqi journalists to hone their news reporting and editing skills on civil society issues. In attendance were a total of 75 journalists, 35 of whom were women. Through the use of short presentations, discussions, and hands-on-simulation, the journalists sharpened their reporting skills including determining the news-worthiness of an event or issue, conducting interviews, and editing news spots and features for publication in their respective media.

On February 24, the USAID partner implementing the Program to Support an Iraqi National Government, Iraqi Transitional Government and Constitutional Development hosted a meeting for 26 women leaders as part of an initiative to involve women in the drafting of the constitution. The group consisted of newly elected members of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA), leaders of non-governmental organizations focused on women's issues and two representatives from the State Ministry of Women's Affairs and Migration. This meeting was the first in a series of meetings in which USAID plans to work in close collaboration with a variety of women elected officials and civil society representatives to educate Iraqis on the importance of guaranteeing women's rights in the constitution and to provide them with necessary advocacy and education skills to effectively promote their rights. According to the Transitional Administrative Law, the TNA is to draft Iraq's new Constitution by August 15, 2005; this will be presented to the Iraqi people for their approval in a national referendum by October 15, 2005.

A USAID's implementing partner prepared an informational guide in late February for all members of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA) to serve as a practical supplement to an orientation manual that was produced and distributed by NDI earlier in the month. The guide contains useful information including a list of all TNA members and contact information for governmental institutions, departments of the parliamentary body and media organizations – in both Arabic and Kurdish. NDI also agreed to provide advisory assistance to the TNA's legal advisor in the drafting of new bylaws.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Awarded more than 3,076 small grants totaling more than \$252.3 million for quick impact activities that support good governance, civil society, conflict management and mitigation, human rights and transitional justice.
- Funded over 100 grants totaling \$3.8 million that focus on women's issues, including supporting the establishment of 14 women's centers in Iraq. Rehabilitated over 264 Iraqi national ministries, schools, clinics and other municipal buildings. Supporting 65 Iraqi groups in documenting human rights abuses of the Ba'athist regime and promoting peace, tolerance, and reconciliation.
- Met critical needs during and immediately after the conflict by providing short-term employment, restoring basic government and community services, increasing Iraqi access to information and communication and encouraging protection of human rights.

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) supports the transition to a participatory, stable, and democratic country. OTI provides quick-dispensing, high-impact grants meeting critical needs—providing short-term employment, restoring basic government and community services, increasing access to information and communication, and encouraging protection of human rights.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

A \$50,000 Iraq Transition Initiative (ITI) grant to the Department of Health of a northern Iraqi district will support improved measures to combat dysentery and other diseases that are caused by poor water quality. ITI assistance provided training courses for medical staff members, established twelve mobile medical teams to conduct safety assessments, supported community awareness programs on oral re-hydration salts, and improved systems for health data collection and analysis.

Diarrhea and dysentery are leading causes of death in children under 5 years of age during the summer months in Iraq. In this particular governorate, recent water quality monitoring showed high bacteriological contamination rates and chlorine deficit rates, indicating a risk of increased infant mortality.

ITI grants develop educational opportunities to build the capacity of local citizens and to provide peaceful alternatives to criminal and radical movements targeting Iraqi youth. Recent activities include:

- A university in southern Iraq provided computer training to 200 unemployed youth and 120 governorate employees under an ITI grant.
- A district council in southern Iraq rehabilitated an intermediate school used by 1,000 students through an ITI grant.
- A \$27,620 ITI grant renovated and furnished a library in northern Iraq. The cultural center, which manages the library, identified the renovation as a priority for their community.

A museum in northern Iraq benefited from an ITI grant to broaden awareness of the violence and gross human rights abuses committed by the former regime during the Al-Anfar campaign to suppress the Kurds. The grant enabled the museum to print 4,000 visitor brochures which provide information about the 1988 Al-Anfar campaign, and specifically, the chemical attack on the town where the memorial is located. By bringing recognition to this atrocity, the memorial not only becomes part of the healing process, but also increases respect for human rights as Iraq transitions to a democracy.

A local advisory council in south central Iraq provided over 1,400 residents with stable, continual access to electrical power when they received a half megawatt generator under an ITI grant. This assistance increased the confidence of citizens in the local government's ability to address community concerns.

Two ITI grants to northern Iraqi non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will improve their ability to conduct community outreach. A children's NGO recognized the importance of developing constructive youth activities and purchased essential equipment and supplies for their center under an ITI grant. An NGO serving the blind works to provide skills and improved confidence for an extremely vulnerable segment of the population. As a result of this assistance, Iraqis are able to help their disabled lead fuller lives and become more active participants in community life.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- USAID has committed over \$129 million to 2,844 projects while Iraqi communities have committed more than 25% of total funding. CAP has established over 670 community action groups (CAGs) in 17 governorates. Five U.S. NGOs each concentrate on a region: north, Baghdad, south-west central, southeast central, and south.
- The northern program focuses on the conflict prone areas of the Sunni Triangle, Mosul, Kirkuk and the Iran-Iraq border. The partner NGO has completed 354 projects with over \$18 million in project commitments including improving the Tikrit water supply, and developing income generation projects in the north.
- In the southwest central region, the partner NGO has established a strong presence in Hillah and the Shi'a holy cities Najaf and Karbala. Emphasis on critical infrastructure needs has improved community water/sanitation services and schools, and repaired vital social infrastructure. They have completed 296 projects and have over \$21.3 million in project commitments.
- Income generation is an important emphasis in the Baghdad program where 495 projects have been completed through CAGs. A marketplace for over 700 vendors is being constructed, and crews are cleaning up medical waste dumps. Total project commitments are \$21.8 million.
- In the southeast central region, 179 projects are complete with a total of \$16.7 million in commitments. In the Shi'i heartland, these projects address needs resulting from decades of government neglect and focus on water, sewerage, community clean-up, and school rehabilitation.
- The southern program has completed 595 projects through 138 CAGs which average 40% women's participation. Projects have focused on immediate community needs such as sewage clean up, water treatment and distribution, public health, and girls' access to education. Total commitments are \$21.2 million.

The Community Action Program (CAP) works in rural and urban communities to promote democracy and prevent and mitigate conflict. Working directly through partner NGOs and in consultation with local government representatives, USAID is creating representative, participatory community groups to identify critical priorities and implement programs to address those needs.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

The Community Action Program (CAP) worked with a Baghdad community to rehabilitate and supply a major teaching hospital in their neighborhood. The hospital, which was built in 1982, is the second-largest hospital in Baghdad with 630 beds and a large treatment capacity with 33 specialized clinics. It serves a surrounding population of approximately 35,630 people and provides key training and education to healthcare students and trainees. The hospital had seen little maintenance for years and its main building was in need of rehabilitation to help upgrade its medical care standards. The lab facilities lacked important equipment. The rehabilitation included improving the hospital's physical condition—including lab facilities—and supplying new equipment, including specialized mini-lab equipment. The total cost of the project was \$100,000; the community contribution was \$10,000.

A Community Action Group in a town near the Iranian border initiated a landmine awareness program for their local primary school with the assistance of CAP. The awareness program, which aims to minimize students' exposure to risks from mines in the area, lasted one week and involved all students from the school. Ten students were subsequently selected to conduct similar awareness lessons in a neighboring school. Large areas of the Iranian border have been made inaccessible due to the heavy mining that occurred there during the ten-year Iran-Iraq war. CAP is also helping the Community Action Group rehabilitate the school. Due to the large scale of damages (six classrooms were completely destroyed as a result of military operations), the work is expected to last three months.

CAP efforts have been intensified to assist the Marshlands communities around Basrah. In meetings with community mobilizers, community members emphasized the need to rapidly restore their basic livelihoods, such as agriculture and fishing, and to develop better roads and schools to encourage returnees to stay to revitalize the Marshlands. Two projects were recently approved that were designed to provide startup assistance to enable the communities to generate income and employment opportunities. The projects will provide winter wheat seeds and supplies for establishing commercial fish farms. It is expected that the commercial fishing project will benefit the communities within two to three months. It is hoped that the winter wheat seeds will enable the communities to create a seed bank of their own for future use. It is intended that the projects will raise the hopes of the Marsh returnees for a better life in their historic homeland. USAID is also working to restore the Marshlands' ecosystem and improve the livelihood of area residents through the Marshlands Restoration Program.

Since the cessation of the 2003 conflict, USAID has completed their planned work at Umm Qasr Seaport, restored significant portions of Iraq's telecommunications network, rebuilt three major bridges and restored the rail line connecting Umm Qasr with Basra city and points north. USAID also helped avert a humanitarian crisis during the conflict by providing assistance to the United Nations' World Food Program. USAID advisors continue to assist with the management and distribution of food rations for all Iraqi citizens.

SEAPORTS

- The \$45 million program to rehabilitate and improve management at Umm Qasr seaport was completed in June 2004.
- Port reopened to commercial traffic on June 17, 2003; completed first passenger vessel test July 16.
- Up to 50 ships offload at the port every month.
- Completed dredging to open all 21 berths to deep-draft ships; maintenance dredging is ongoing.
- Applied port tariffs on June 20, 2003.
- Renovated the grain-receiving facility to process 600 MT of grain an hour.
- Renovated the administration building, passenger terminal, customs hall, and electrical substations.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- Audited more than 1,200 km of the fiber optic backbone network and performed emergency repairs, reconnecting 20 cities and 70% of the population.
- Reconstituted Baghdad area phone service by installing switches with 240,000 lines at 12 sites.
- Installed and fully integrated 13 new switches with 14 existing switches.
- Worked with the Ministry of Communications to reactivate more than 215,000 subscriber lines.
- Installed a satellite gateway system at Baghdad's largest telecom exchange and restored international service.
- Trained telecom engineers and technicians in the operation and maintenance of the satellite gateway system and the new switches.

BRIDGES AND ROADS

- Rebuilt three major bridges—Khazir, Tikrit and Al Mat bridges—critical for the movement of people and commercial products throughout the country.
- Rebuilt a substantial portion of the Iraqi Republican Railway line connecting Basrah with the port of Umm Qasr including physical track construction, installing culverts, and repairing gatehouses. The remainder of the work has been handed over to the Ministry of Transportation. This work facilitates the shipment of bulk cargo from the port to Baghdad and throughout the country.

FOOD SECURITY

- Worked directly with the World Food Program (WFP) and Coalition Forces to re-establish the Public Distribution System in less than 30 days, avoiding a humanitarian food crisis and providing food security throughout the country.
- With Iraqi food distributors, Food for Peace, the WFP, and Coalition Forces maintained deliveries from June through December 2003 in all 18 governorates.
- Played a key role in an agreement between the WFP, CPA, and the MoT that provided the WFP with the resources and authority to continue to support the PDS through June 2004.
- In partnership with the United States Embassy in Iraq, providing on-going support to the Public Distribution System Working Group to assist the Ministry of Trade with improving PDS management.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

March 17, 2005

FY 2003-2005*			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
Reconstruction USAID/ANE			Subtotal: \$3,870,261,027
Abt Associates	Health	Countrywide	\$23,031,886
AFCAP	Logistics	Countrywide	\$91,500,000
Army Corps of Engineers	Architecture and Engineering Services	Countrywide	\$31,328,264
BearingPoint	Economic Governance	Countrywide	\$79,583,885
BearingPoint	Economic Governance II	Countrywide	\$103,500,000
Louis Berger Group	Vocational Education	Countrywide	\$75,016,115
Louis Berger Group	Private Sector Development II	Countrywide	\$60,000,000
Bechtel National	Airports, buildings, emergency communications, power, railroads, roads and bridges, Umm Qasr seaport, water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$1,029,833,259
Bechtel National	Infrastructure II: Airports, buildings, emergency communications, power, railroads, roads and bridges, Umm Qasr seaport, water and sanitation, Basra Hospital	Countrywide	\$1,386,809,782
Community Action Program	Development in impoverished communities	Countrywide	\$168,820,000
DAI	Marshlands	Dhi Qar Al Basr Maysan	\$4,000,000
DAI	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$101,352,912
Fed Source	Personnel Support	Countrywide	\$300,000
IRG	Reconstruction Support	Countrywide	\$51,698,152
RTI	Local Governance	Countrywide	\$236,911,000
America's Development Foundation	Civil Society	Countrywide	\$42,880,157
CAII	Education	Countrywide	\$56,503,000
CAII	Education II	Countrywide	\$51,809,000
CEPPS	Iraq Governing Council	Countrywide	\$675,000
CEPPS	Transitional Government	Countrywide	\$20,700,000
CEPPS	Voter Education, Domestic Observation and Conflict Resolution	Countrywide	\$47,175,000
CEPPS	Elections Administration Support	Countrywide	\$40,000,000

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

March 17, 2005

FY 2003-2004			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
VFH	Elections Support	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$36,700,000
UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$19,600,000
UNESCO	Textbook Printing & Distribution: Math & Science	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
WHO	Strengthen Health System	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
Logenix	Health	North/Central	\$98,006
SSA	Port Management	Um Qasr	\$14,318,985
SkyLink	Airport Management	Baghdad, Al Basrah, Mosul	\$27,200,000
MSI	Monitoring and Evaluation	Countrywide	\$5,038,772
University Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Research Foundation of the State University of New York/Stony Brook and the Universities of Chicago, Boston and Oxford The Human Rights Institute, DePaul University College of Law and Italy's International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences University of Hawaii, the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, University of Jordan and the American University in Beirut Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, Alcorn State University, Mississippi Valley State University, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Benetech, US-Iraq Business Resources University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Cameron University and Langston University 	Countrywide	\$20,730,000
Yankee Group	Telecoms Planning	Countrywide	\$58,150
VEGA	Business Skills Training	Countrywide	\$12,089,702
UNDP	Trust Fund Contribution	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
World Bank	Trust Fund Contribution	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
Emergency Relief USAID/DCHA/OFDA.....			Subtotal: \$157,615,822
Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$7,996,855
AirServ	Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,309,876
ARC	Capacity Building	Al Basrah	\$537,746
CARE	IDP Assistance, Quick-impact projects, Water and Sanitation, Health, Emergency Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$9,043,148
The Cuny Center	Research Studies	Countrywide	\$40,260
GOAL	Coordination, Nutrition	Al Muthanna	\$1,507,900
InterAction	Coordination	Kuwait City	\$92,860
IDA	Health	Countrywide	\$1,318,437

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

March 17, 2005

FY 2003-2004			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
IMC	Health, IDP Assistance, Food Security, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, Capacity Building	Countrywide	\$28,952,898
IOM	IDP Assistance	Countrywide	\$16,392,470
IRC	IDP Assistance, Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$8,000,411
IRD	IDP Assistance, Health, Water and Sanitation	Northern Iraq	\$10,000,000
Logistics	Emergency Relief Commodities and USAID/DART Support	Countrywide	\$22,771,653
Mercy Corps	IDP Assistance, Health, Emergency Relief Commodities, Shelter, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$20,199,786
SCF/US	Food Security, Health, IDP Assistance, Shelter, Nutrition, Emergency Relief Commodities, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$7,957,783
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
OCHA	Coordination and Information	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
USAID/Jordan	Support for Emergency Water Activities	Countrywide	\$500,000
WFP	Food Security, Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
World Vision	Health, Logistics, Emergency Relief, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$6,793,739
USAID/DCHA/FFP.....			Subtotal: \$425,571,000
WFP	Operations	Countrywide	\$45,000,000
WFP	Emerson Trust—81,500 MT	Countrywide	\$40,337,000
WFP	P.L. 48— Title II emergency food commodities—163,820 MT	Countrywide	\$140,234,000
WFP	Regional Purchase—330,000MT	Countrywide	\$200,000,000
USAID/DCHA/OTI.....			Subtotal: \$372,029,240
Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$10,071,784
IOM	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$6,462,167
DAI	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$344,500,376
Internews	Media	Countrywide	\$160,359
Radio SAWA	Media	Countrywide	\$400,000
NDI/IRI	National Governance	Countrywide	\$650,000
IFES	National Governance	Countrywide	\$1,042,315
ICNL	Civil Society	Countrywide	\$39,238
Spa War**	Inter-Ministry Communications	Countrywide	\$8,703,001
TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ FROM 2003-2005.....			\$4,825,477,089

* Figures in funding sheet are subject to change and do not represent a final official accounting of USG obligations.

** For accounting purposes, funding for this activity has been obligated by OFDA under an existing interagency agreement.