

New Road Links 75,000 Iraqi Villagers



Photo: USAID/Ben Barber

“Cars could not get through and most people could not even walk out through the mud in winter—they could not get to the other towns or to the markets. People are grateful to me and they stop to thank me,” said contractor Mahmoud Janabi, 30, who built the seven-mile road which was paid for by USAID.

Before the bulldozers, graders and tar machines went to work, most of the small towns nearby had no road linking them to the country’s main travel arteries. The road project was funded by USAID through USAID’s Iraq Community Action program and coordinated with the Coalition Provisional Authority. Although the road is far from smooth and vehicles bounce along at around 20 miles per hour, it should last 10 to 15 years. The communities along the road have agreed to meet in the days after the official opening to learn how to help in maintain the road work.

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