



*Iraq*

Local Institutional  
Support and  
Development Program

Local Governance Project\*

30 September 2003

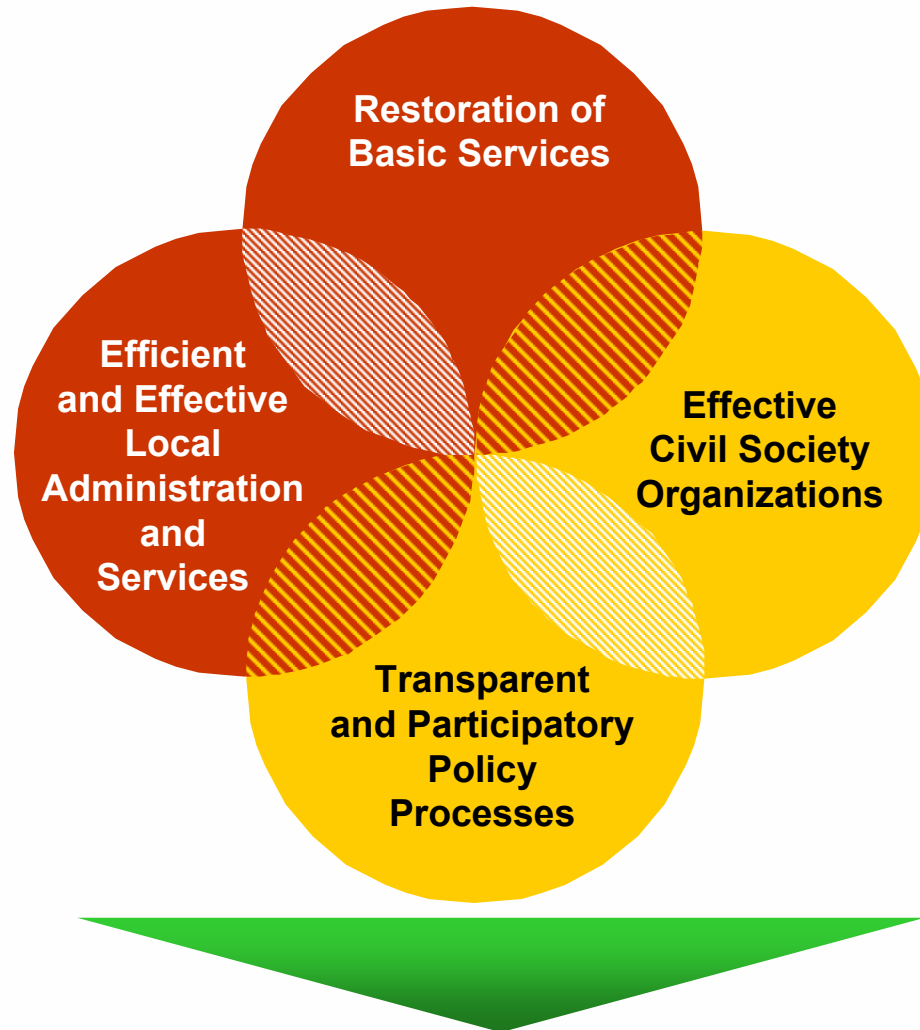
\*Implemented by RTI International under contract with USAID

# Strategic Objective

**Iraqi citizens benefit from improved local governance:** strengthened local governments and civil society organizations are able to respond to a broad range of issues in subnational administration, service delivery, and citizen participation in local administration



# Expected Results



**Improved Services,  
Quality of Life, and Functioning Civil Society**

# What Is Happening at the Local Level in Iraq?

## *Iraqis are achieving historic firsts*

- Iraqis are helping to create and use new representative institutions to control their own lives
- Iraqis managing services are setting priorities locally and starting to allocate resources on an independent basis
- Iraqi nongovernmental groups at the local level are forming and influencing local government



# What Is Happening at the Local Level in Iraq? *(continued)*

*City Councils and (in Baghdad District) Neighborhood Councils provide for an unprecedented degree of representation of citizens*

- Iraqis are taking initiative on issues via representative institutions, and demonstrating willingness to assert their own priorities
- Conflict resolution in al-Sadr
- Conflict resolution in al-Mawsil and Kirkuk, areas of substantial ethnic and religious diversity

# What Is Happening at the Local Level in Iraq? *(continued)*

*Iraqi service department heads for the first time are making their own decisions on priorities, resources allocation, and customer (citizen) service*

- al-Basrah water system repair and treatment, electrical system repairs, restoration of sewage operations
- al-Najaf - repair of 4 major fire stations and firefighting equipment
- Kirkuk - rehab of municipal building, and building of first city council auditorium to encourage public participation in local governance meetings



# What Is Happening at the Local Level in Iraq? *(continued)*

*Iraqi service department heads for the first time are making their own decisions on priorities, resources allocation, and customer (citizen) service (continued)*

- Kirkuk - new employment service office to identify broad categories of workers, create rosters for both public and private sector employers, and serve as a coordination point for national jobs program
- al-Hillah/Babil region - repair of ground water canals to prevent the annual massive flooding of low income residential areas
- Babil - provision of computer and technical support for the municipal treasury operations and town council offices

# What Is Happening at the Local Level in Iraq? *(continued)*

*Previously excluded groups (nongovernmental, community-based organizations) are finding their voice and influencing the actions of councils and service departments.*

- al-Basrah - working with the Association of Disabled Veterans on the rehab of a community facility used for physical therapy, training, and recreational and social activities
- Kirkuk - support for the Organization for Civil Society in Iraq's first conference "Toward Contemporary Civil Society in Iraq," focusing on key facets for the development of a strong civil society
- Karbala - training and capacity-building work with the Iraqi Human Rights Watch and Former Prisoners and Families of Victims Association, helping them to organize and facilitate workshops on key issues and information dissemination



# What Is Happening at the Local Level in Iraq? (continued)

*Previously excluded groups (nongovernmental, community-based organizations) are finding their voice and influencing the actions of councils and service departments (continued)*

- al-Hillah - LGP held regional workshop with groups from five cities in south central region on forming civil society organizations, including: creating business plans, project design and evaluation, and leadership and advocacy in participatory environments
- Baghdad - providing support for previously excluded groups: assisting a Kurdish women's NGO in rehabilitating and equipping a neighborhood primary health clinic
- al-Mawsil - support for the creation of the first nurses association to advocate for the rights of nurses and professional improvement of the profession
- Arbil - support for the Khatuzin Center for Social Action, 3 day conference on "Empowering Women," forum for women's NGO group in the north to share common experiences and develop strategies for the future



# The Role of LGP

Government ↔ Civil Society

## *Two Sides of the Same Coin*



# Basic Facts about the LGP Program

- We are deployed in 16 of 18 Governorates
- We have approximately 120 international staff deployed in country
- We have approximately 265 Iraqi employees, most in professional positions
- International staff come from over 30 countries
- About 30% of the international staff have hands-on experience as local elected officials, city administrators, department heads, utility managers, etc.

# LGP Activities 1

Working with Iraqis to Identify priorities and provide technical and financial resources for restoration of basic services (emergency conditions)



# LGP Activities 2

Assisting Iraqis to form neighborhood councils and other representative organizations, increasing the representativeness of existing councils



# LGP Activities 3

Training technical department heads, council members, and governors in the “nuts and bolts” of city management (service cost analysis, expenditure requirements analysis, current and capital budget planning)



# LGP Activities 4:

Identifying existing civil society organizations, helping organize new CSOs, and providing technical and financial resources to help them influence and hold accountable local government



# RTI Deployment Status

