



RECONSTRUCTION WEEKLY UPDATE

April 7, 2005



USAID distributed livelihood asset packages to 172 Kurdish internally displaced persons who fled insurgents in Fallujah.

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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 2003 to restore the capacity of Iraq's power system.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

To improve the reliability of power generation, work is moving forward on the expansion of a power plant in southern Baghdad. Currently, Baghdad receives electricity for half the day. When completed, this project will add 215 MW to the national grid. The existing plant is a mid-sized thermal power plant that has a 132-kilovolt (KV) connection and is serviced by a heavy fuel pipeline.

Recent activities on the expansion have included welding and assembly of exhaust stacks on two turbines. On the first turbine, the electrical duct bank installation is complete and work on the exhaust stack external rings and silencer continues. Work to construct the plant's accompanying fuel tank farm is also progressing. The final alignment between the second turbine and generator shafts took place on March 22. Piping for generator lube oil systems and off-base cooling water systems was recently finished. Both turbines will be ready for heavy fuel operation and substantial completion by mid-August 2005. At that time, the fuel supply will be delivered directly to the plant from an existing heavy fuel oil pipeline.

USAID has sponsored operations and maintenance (O&M) training for power plant staff. Currently, actual electricity generation performs at only 50%-60% of total capacity (7,500 MW). With a total US government investment of \$3 billion in infrastructure improvement projects in the electricity sector, O&M training and institutional strengthening activities are required to ensure sustainable operation and maintenance of new and refurbished facilities.

The O&M training effort provides for classroom training of 239 Ministry of Electricity (MOE) staff in tiers corresponding to their management level. Tier one offers instruction in leadership and strategy for senior managers. Tier two trains 36 plant managers in leadership, advanced plant management and electrical business development at a U.S. university. Tier three teaches combustion plant and thermal plant operations to 83 senior power plant managers. Finally, Tier four, stresses calibration, boiler & water chemistry, and technical classes.

The goal of O&M training is to establish a tradition of best operational practices and modern management techniques at Iraq's power plants. Upon completion of this program in May, the overall operating standards, safety standards, and the reliability of plant output should be improved.

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

To ameliorate water shortages in Baghdad, a new water treatment plant will be designed and constructed to increase the quantity and quality of potable water to a poor area of eastern Baghdad. Work in progress includes surveying and geotechnical testing for the raw water, treated water, and sludge pipelines. The project is about 12% complete and is expected to be finished by March 2006.

The goal of this project is to increase the quantity and quality of potable water to Sadr City and surrounding areas of eastern Baghdad. The scope of work for the project calls for the construction of a modern 20 million gallons of water per day (MGD) plant. Extensive Operations and Maintenance training will be provided to the plant's staff as a part of this project.

The expansion of the Sharkh Dijlah water treatment plant will add 50 MGD to the city's supply of potable water. USAID accepted responsibility for the completion of the plant expansion and work is now 90% complete. Currently, installation of the clarifier tanks continues, including dewatering and roadway and walkway repairs. The project is expected to be completed by May.

Work is moving forward on improvements to the sewage system in Kadhamiya, a northern suburb of Baghdad. The 1.5 million residents frequently endure flooding of raw sewage into their streets and homes increasing public health risks from water-borne diseases. The overflows occur because of inadequate or blocked sewer lines, and because inoperable pump stations cannot convey sewage from homes and mains to sewage treatment plants. This project is designed to clean, repair, replace, and expand sewer lines and sewage collection system equipment to improve performance. The project will consist of clearing and repairing sewer lines and rehabilitating the vertical pump lift station.

Upon completion, Kadhamiya's sewage collection system will lift and convey sewage flows to Kerkh Wastewater Treatment Plant, eliminating flooding and pooling of raw sewage.

Surveying and geotechnical testing for the raw water, treated water, and sludge pipelines

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

Officers from the Central Bank of Iraq (CBI) recently participated in a series of training courses supported by USAID's Iraq Economic Governance II (IEG II) program. IEG II advisors work with the CBI to improve its ability to conduct sound macroeconomic policy and supervise banking within the country. CBI staff members and division representatives, including 34 women attended two two-week training courses in accounting and international accounting standards. IEG II advisors completed a software prototype for direct deposits and began a survey of banks to identify systems used and potential for connectivity.

IEG II advisors recently began drafting a comprehensive training program to strengthen regulators' technical skills in collaboration with the State Department's Iraq Reconstruction Management Office (IRMO). Advisors also completed a report on a reorganization strategy for the Iraq Telephone and Postal Company.

Fourteen officials from the Ministry of Electricity (MOE) took part in a one-week electricity capacity workshop in Amman, Jordan. USAID's IEG II program supported the workshop as part of their mission to build the local's capacity to modernize and regulate utilities. Participants discussed ways to include the private sector, metering, billing, financial systems, and regulation. The workshop helped participants identify necessary changes and acknowledge a need for increased cooperation with government and private sector counterparts. IEG II staff requested information from meter manufacturers regarding product deployment and are organizing study tours for MOE staff to observe new systems in the field. Finally, program staff submitted a paper on *Future Metering Technology* to the MOE.

Recently, USAID's Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA) awarded thirty-five small grants to selected members of an Iraqi chamber of commerce to attend a construction trade show in the United States. VEGA activities will be implemented in cooperation with business centers in major cities throughout Iraq.

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

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and the General Directorate of Horticulture, Forestry and Rangelands began re-foresting areas which were either burned by central government armies in the 1990s or over-harvested by residents for fuel wood.

The 1,100 donums of land (1 hectare = 10 donums) replanted in eight sub-districts in Arbil are part of USAID's Agricultural Reconstruction and Development for Iraq (ARDI) program. In the past few years, the MOA has been implementing a reforestation program in the affected areas to restore the biodiversity of the region. Under this program, the General Directorate of Horticulture, Forestry and Rangelands has developed the capability to produce large quantities of tree seedlings for planting. They have also supported a policy that outlaws the destruction of newly planted trees and have deployed forestry guards to enforce this policy. ARDI will provide needed tools, transport and labor to the MOA to plant seedlings in Arbil and Dahuk. Almost 500 temporary jobs will be created for local laborers.



The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) began planting trees on 110 hectares of land in Arbil governorate to restore biodiversity destroyed by burning and over-harvesting.

Through grants awarded by USAID's ARDI program, two agricultural media centers in Arbil and As Sulaymaniyah governorates now have the equipment they need to serve Iraqis involved in agricultural work. Media centers serve as the publicity arm of the MOA Agricultural Research and Extension Centers. The centers produce reference and training materials for farmers, and publications and reports for the General Directorate of Research and Extension. Unfortunately, under the previous regime, these centers were neglected and suffered from a lack of available equipment. Media centers equipped with modern technologies will be able to support the training and information distribution efforts of the Extension Centers. This will lead to improved agricultural production as more farmers are able to obtain information on improved agricultural methods and technologies.

The equipment includes video cameras, audio/video mixers, television monitors, digital cameras, projectors, memory cards, printers, microphones, and computers. Since receiving the equipment, the center has produced numerous publications including posters, instructional pamphlets, and agricultural calendars. It has also produced a television program for local broadcast that details the process of sheep vaccination and informs farmers where vaccines can be obtained.

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

Law students from a university in As Sulaymaniyah Governorate participated in the Jessup International Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C. at the end of March. USAID'S Higher Education and Development (HEAD) program and the US State Department are supporting the students in attending this conference.

The four team members, three of whom are women, were chosen from the law school's top 25 students. They have been preparing for months, studying international law, preparing briefs, and practicing in moot court classrooms. This project emphasizes practical knowledge, courtroom experience, and ethical practices, so that students leave college prepared to help rebuild Iraq's legal system.

President Bush welcomed the Iraqi law students to the White House Tuesday, March 29th, and later in the week the students visited the U.S. Supreme Court. The Jessup conference weekend includes lectures and panel discussions on topics such as human rights in times of war and gender issues in post-conflict societies.

The Jessup conference is an opportunity for Iraqi students to re-integrate with the international legal community, demonstrate the competence and spirit of Iraqi students and universities who are succeeding in the face of so many challenges, and share the invaluable experience and perspective that the Iraqi people have in building democracy.

A total of 514,188 secondary school educational kits have arrived in 18 governorate warehouses thanks to support from USAID. The remaining 10,812 kits will be delivered to the northern governorates and Baghdad directorates in the following weeks. The kits are delivered in a school bag embossed with the emblem of the Ministry of Education and include supplies such as pencils, erasers, notebooks, protractors, and rulers. From the governorate warehouses, kits are delivered to schools. The project is half-way complete, with 291,069 kits delivered so far to 1,307 schools.

Iraqi student response to the kits has been enthusiastic. With her kit in hand, an Iraqi high school girl said, "this step makes us feel that there are people who care for the Iraqi student...they provide necessary needs like pencils and copybooks. We pray to Allah to bless you."

Recent obstacles have been inhibiting the speedy delivery of the school kits. A Baghdad warehouse holding 15,000 kits was unfortunately flooded with rain water, damaging some kits and delaying distribution. Areas in Salah ad Din and Anbar governorates are experiencing distribution delays due to security concerns.

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

A two-day workshop on the utilization of a CSO assessment tool was held in mid-March at the Baghdad Civil Society Resource Center with the support of the Iraq Civil Society and Media Support Program (ICSP). At the workshop, 16 participants reviewed the CSO assessment tool, made suggestions for revision, and began planning for its use. Further workshops will be held in three other regions. The project's staff will provide monitoring and evaluation training at each location, further developing each center's capacity for using the assessment tool.

Armed with the most recent draft of a Grants Manual, the ICSP grants manager visited the Basrah Civil Society Resource Center to conduct an orientation seminar for 30 staff members to prepare them in launching the region's grants program. The workshop defined the mechanisms of identifying relevant grantees and offered instructions in writing proposals. These workshops will also be offered for the staff at the other three centers.

Fourteen Iraqi women representing eight political parties and three independent parties were recently selected to attend a weeklong training session that focused on media communications and fundraising. The training provided participants with specific campaign skills they could use to help solidify their position within their parties and advance their ideological agendas. Additional sessions at the training dealt with targeting the vote, getting the vote out on Election Day and tools for building a political party.

In early March, 25 female reporters attended a two day seminar to help them develop stories and to encourage them to follow developments in the new constitution. The workshop was conducted under the ICSP geared to orient journalists and broadcasters in covering civil society issues. A significant portion of media workshops being conducted under this program focus on training female journalists in the Baghdad media.

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

In mid-March, the Iraq Civil Society and Media Support Program (ICSP) and the Iraq Foundation, a U.S. NGO, facilitated a week-long national conference on gender issues in civil society.

The conference, dubbed the "Convention to End all Forms of Discrimination against Women," was facilitated by a visiting gender specialist from Egypt. During the conference, the specialist and ICSP gender department staff guided 30 participants from several women's Civil Society Organizations (CSO) as they examined existing laws that protect women's rights in policy decision making. The intent of the workshop was to mobilize women's groups to expand their participation in the drafting of the new Iraqi constitution.



Thirty Iraqi women participated in the week long conference.

As Iraq's political parties debate the composition of a new government, USAID's partners organized consultation meetings with representatives of political entities from the Transitional National Assembly (TNA) to discuss their views on the constitution and to present a profile of the type of assistance USAID partners can provide. The meetings included consultations between the partners' staff and senior United Iraqi Alliance officials who are members of the TNA and their parties' designated Constitutional Committee representatives. The UIA group also included an advisor to Grand Ayatollah Sistani. The officials discussed their parties' positions on the role of Islam in the constitution, the rights of women, the concept of federalism, and the timeline for completion of the public draft of the constitution. The meetings were the first step toward developing a comprehensive plan of assistance for the drafting process. It was stressed throughout the meetings that this assistance would be provided at the request of the parties, and in support of Iraqi sovereignty. A constitutional expert was invited to present information on the processes and structures of constitutions to the representatives.

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

Official surveys showed that hundreds of homes were damaged as a result of combat in and around Baghdad. While many can be salvaged, others were damaged beyond repair. Baghdad Community Action Groups recently informed the Community Action Program (CAP) that addressing the need to repair homes damaged by the war was a high priority. Therefore, a large portion of the funding for CAP's Assistance to Civilian Victims of the Conflict initiative was allocated for home repairs and the provision of supplies.

In many cases one or more family members were killed when the house was damaged. Some of the homeless families stayed with neighbors or relatives or lived in make-shift tents and shacks alongside the damaged buildings. Some were still residing in the damaged and unsafe houses exposing themselves to the danger of collapse. The amount of aid varied from case to case, depending on the extent of the damage, family needs, and the number of beneficiaries involved. For many of these families, the renovation provided shelter and at least some small solace. CAP's implementing partner in Baghdad has assisted 65 families and plans to rehabilitate a total of 100 homes.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Awarded more than 3,186 small grants totaling more than \$258.7 million for quick impact activities that support good governance, civil society, conflict management and mitigation, human rights and transitional justice.
- Funded over 107 grants totaling \$3.8 million that focus on women's issues, including supporting the establishment of 24 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 weightlifting club in central Iraq established an administration office with the support of an Iraq Transition Initiative (ITI) grant. In combination with funds from other donors, the grant provided furniture, computers and other supplies. The club will now provide a fully-functional recreational facility to the young men in the area. Like many sports in Iraq, weightlifting is resuming a sense of normalcy. In July, a weightlifting gym in Baghdad held the first body building competition since the hostilities began in April 2003. One of the champions said, "If young men spend as much time training as I do, then they're not going to be outside getting themselves in trouble." Recreational facilities, like the weightlifting club in central Iraq, provide youth with alternatives to violence.

A cultural center in northern Iraq conducted democracy workshops in four sub-districts through an ITI grant. The grant supported mobile teams that promote an understanding of the democratic process and principles of human rights in remote communities particularly vulnerable to extremist movements. As a result of the workshops' emphasis on nonviolent conflict resolution, the grant is strengthening Iraq's political transition and enhancing respect for institutions that protect human rights.

A non-governmental organization in Northern Iraq organized a conference on the role of students within a democratic Iraq. ITI supported the operational costs of the three-day conference that helped to build student advocacy skills and strengthen confidence in young people's ability to effectively participate in Iraq's political transition. The conference participants will produce a paper that encompasses the outcomes of their discussions for dissemination through university and local newspapers. Student representatives will hold subsequent workshops at their respective universities to discuss follow-up activities.

The local government of a city in northern Iraq procured essential equipment and supplies for their main government building through an ITI grant. The newly equipped government office now provides a suitable central location where citizens can voice their concerns and council members and staff may hold sub-committee meetings, helping the provincial council and the mayor to meet the growing needs of city residents and establish new and effective structures for local governance that demonstrate transparency, democracy, and accountability.

A chess hall in central Iraq revitalized its facilities by procuring furniture and equipment through an ITI grant. The refurbished hall has increased the number of recreational opportunities available to area residents and revitalized a culture of games, encouraging positive competition among residents. By increasing opportunities for participation in social activities, the chess hall is helping return a sense of normalcy to the area.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Rehabilitated 105 water treatment units and 396 kilometers of water networks to ensure the provision of potable water in critical areas.
- Rehabilitated 72 health facilities and re-equipped 238 to improve the quality of health care.
- Vaccinated over 3,000 women and children against measles.
- Registered internally displaced persons and provided them with water, blankets, medical kits, and hygiene kits.
- Rehabilitated a water treatment plant in a poor area of Baghdad. The rehab is benefiting 1 million residents.

In the first year of programming, USAID's humanitarian assistance focused on emergency interventions to prevent food and water shortages and provide adequate shelter and medical supplies throughout Iraq. USAID is now directing humanitarian assistance efforts through the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to specifically target Iraq's internally displaced people (IDP), primarily in northern Iraq, but also in two southern governorates.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Kurdish internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in deeply impoverished conditions along the banks of the Sirwan River received livelihood assets packages of basic living essentials. The former regime had moved these 26 families into Fallujah in 1982. During the recent fighting there, the families were run out of their homes by insurgents. Suspected of being Coalition sympathizers, they feared being insurgent targets; collectively, they decided to move to their current location. For these families, safety had its sacrifice. The living conditions were miserable; they lacked basic services, household assets, and income opportunities.



USAID distributed livelihood asset packages to 172 Kurdish internally displaced persons. The displaced persons fled insurgents in Fallujah and face difficult conditions along a river bank in Northern Iraq.

A USAID partner helped improve living conditions by delivering 26 livelihood assets packages to the IDPs. The USAID partner estimates that over 1,100 vulnerable families in As Sulaymaniyah and Diyala' governorates will receive a livelihood assets package in the next month. In February, over 6,000 IDP families received livelihood assets packages. The distributed items will provide these destitute families with minimum household assets and help improve their temporary living conditions.

In As Sulaymaniyah Governorate, a USAID partner trained NGO workers in methods to involve residents when planning and implementing community mobilization projects. Workshop participants learned how to organize a town hall meeting with a participatory environment. They learned to invite key players such as community leaders, minority groups, and women and how to facilitate project selection among these players. The training emphasized the importance of utilizing traditional leadership structures to allow community development groups to build upon existing civic foundations. Finally, the trainees learned to prioritize projects that benefit all of the key players. The training is intended to build the capacity of project implementers so that they ensure that projects build upon and enhance existing local civic structures, selected projects are of the highest quality and the community feels ownership of the project.

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

April 7, 2005

FY 2003-2005*			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
Reconstruction USAID/ANE			Subtotal: \$3,869,775,800
Abt Associates	Health	Countrywide	\$23,031,886
AFCAP	Logistics	Countrywide	\$91,500,000
Army Corps of Engineers	Architecture and Engineering Services	Countrywide	\$30,842,037
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

April 7, 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

April 7, 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: \$372,184,521
Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$10,227,056
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.....			\$4,825,147,143

* 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.