



RECONSTRUCTION WEEKLY UPDATE

March 3, 2005



The expansion and rehabilitation of the Sharkh Dijlah water treatment plant is helping to address a water shortage 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 942 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.
- Most recently, USAID has 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'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 continuing on the refurbishment of two units at a large thermal power station in Baghdad. The station's four steam boilers and turbines were each designed to produce 160 MW each, but this capacity has been degraded due to lack of maintenance. The station's cooling systems are severely damaged, thus the generator turbines cannot operate at full-load without risk of damage from overheating. As a result, the plant is now operating far below its full-load rating of 640 MW. Recent average output has been in the range of 160-170 MW, with two units operating.



Work is now 81% complete on the refurbishment of two units at a Baghdad power station.

This activity is refurbishing two steam turbine generation units at the power station. The control system for both units' boilers and turbines is obsolete and extensive work is re-

quired before the units can operate reliably at their design output. The activity covers rehabilitation of both turbines, replacement of boiler and turbine controls with a modern, sustainable system, and refurbishment of the 132kV switchyard. The project also includes rehabilitation of water intake screens, auxiliary mechanical equipment and electrical equipment, electrical cabling, electrical raceways, cable trays and control systems. Upon completion, an additional 320 MW is projected to be available for Baghdad's electrical grid.

Recently, condenser tubes were completed and work continued on the Unit 6 High Pressure turbine rotor assembly. Control room loop checks are ongoing for Unit 5 and electrical testing is complete. Control room flooring was installed last week and software changes are being implemented. Nine final inspection reports have been completed as equipment checklists become available.

About 350 Iraqi workers are employed by this rehabilitation activity, which is now 81% finished and is scheduled for completion in the summer of this year. However this completion date is dependent on a separate Ministry of Electricity contract to rehabilitate the boilers.

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

The Baghdad Water Authority reports a 30% shortage of daily available potable water for the city. To increase water production, the water authority began rehabilitating a water treatment plant at Sharkh Dijlah, located on the Tigris River, north of the city. This existing water treatment plant was designed to process 120 million gallons per day (MGD); however, the actual operating capacity was as low as 36 MGD, due to inefficient equipment. USAID is rehabilitating portions of the existing Sharkh Dijlah plant under

Phase II and is completing a 50 MGD expansion of the plant under Phase I. The Phase I expansion is expected to be complete in March 2005. Together, these two phases are expected to increase the supply of treated water by over 100 MGD.

Recently, the design review of raw water intake expansion and intake pump stations was completed. Geotechnical tests and surveying have begun at the raw water intake and pump station. Bids have been opened for construction of the raw water intake. A light construction contract has been awarded, with work to begin next week. Hydro-testing of a wet well compartment in the existing plant is complete. Control panels in an existing generator building are complete.



The activity will add 100 MGD of capacity.

Work is continuing on the construction of a new water treatment plant that will serve the impoverished Sadr City neighborhood in Baghdad, an area that in the past was prone to conflict. Construction is in its beginning stages. To date, a chainlink security fence, electrical junction boxes, and security lighting have been installed and surveying, geotechnical testing and mapping for the raw water pipeline have recently begun. The design and build contractor also mobilized to the site in mid-February.

Concurrent with this project, the Baghdad Municipality is constructing and expanding water intake structures and a raw water pump station in the vicinity of the Sharkh Dijlah water treatment facilities. The Sharkh Dijlah pumping facility, which is located near Sadr City, will supply raw water to the Sadr City treatment facilities from the Tigris River via a water supply trunk line. Extensive Operations and Maintenance training will be provided to the plant's O&M staff as a part of this project.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

In close cooperation with Iraqi counterparts, USAID's Private Sector Development II (PSD II) program is continuing work to promote the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSME). Under the Baathist regime, it was often difficult for would-be entrepreneurs to access the resources they needed to start or build business enterprises. The PSD II focus on MSMEs will help ensure that new opportunities are extended to segments of Iraq's population that were previously excluded from economic resources.

Recent activities to promote growth of MSMEs have included:

Bank Lending. Assisting banks to develop the capacity to successfully lend to small and medium sized enterprises is essential to putting capital resources into the hands of entrepreneurs. In support of this objective, PSD II is conducting a training course in Amman, Jordan for Iraqi bank officers on MSME lending. The course will help the bankers to manage issues associated with MSME lending, such as risk assessment, collection, and other issues. Along with training activities, the PSD II team is supporting bank MSME lending by providing Arabic-language loan management software and by drafting relevant concept papers.

Grants. PSD II staff are preparing a new grants activity to support the program's objectives. A grants manual has been drafted and is awaiting final approval. Staff, including a deputy grants manager, have recently been identified and recruited in Baghdad. Work has been initiated on a grants database, operational partners have been identified for Arbil and Basrah grants offices, and resumes are being reviewed for candidates to staff the Basrah office.

PSD II program advisors are collaborating with Iraqi government officials and private sector representatives on a range of activities to build investment from domestic and foreign sources. One of the key elements in this endeavor is the creation of a new Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) to take a leading role within the Iraqi government in policy reform efforts.

PSD II advisors have completed the IPA prospectus and are now working to build support for the new agency among Iraqi counterparts. The Ministry of Planning has accepted the idea, as have several private sector counterparts. The Minister of Planning agreed to draft a new law and create a mechanism for the formal establishment of the IPA.

PSD II has also completed a presentation in support of the IPA that will be delivered at an upcoming workshop. Furthermore, a set of standard operating procedures is being drafted for an IPA "One-Stop-Shop," which will provide a place where potential investors can access all the information they need about investment rules, forms, clearances, and other issues.

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

USAID's Agricultural Reconstruction and Development for Iraq (ARDI) program is continuing its efforts to build the capacity of Iraqi veterinary clinics. The clinics play a key role in maintaining the health of livestock in rural areas. As part of this effort, ARDI began distributing "Vet-in-a-Box" kits in 2004 to veterinary clinics that were rehabilitated earlier by the program. Vet-in-a-Box is a veterinary clinic start-up kit that includes 48 items for rehabilitated veterinary clinics including stethoscopes, thermometers, syringes, scalpels, suture material, dehorners, and other instruments and accessories.

The Vet-in-a-Box initiative was implemented after ARDI technical staff observed that some clinics remained non-operational, even after rehabilitation work was completed, due to a lack of supplies. Vet-in-a-Box meets this immediate need. Once renovations are completed, the clinic receives the kit and quickly becomes operational.



The Vet-in-a-Box kits provide essential supplies to Iraqi veterinary clinics.

ARDI, in coordination with Civil Affairs Veterinarians and the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture, developed the concept and the inventory. There are currently 10 veterinary clinics throughout Iraq that have been completely rehabilitated by ARDI and 11 with renovations in progress.

The ARDI program and the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) are developing a national program to support olive production. This month, ARDI received a MOA proposal to plant 30 demonstration olive orchards, including 21,000 trees, in 15 governorates. The proposed plan calls for each governorate to plant two orchards of ten dunums (2.5 hectares), requiring 700 trees per site. In the Northern governorates, olives with high oil content will be grown for processing. In the central governorates, table olives will be grown as they are better suited to the climate. Both types of olives will be planted in the southern regions. The MOA and ARDI will supervise the project while the individual demonstration sites will be managed by local extension center staff.

Oil produced under this program and in existing orchards will be processed in four large, Ministry of Industry-built olive oil processing plants throughout the country. Although the oil and the fruit will be primarily sold in domestic markets, future studies will assess potential for export.

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 the quality of 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

As of February 17, 198,540 Secondary School Student Kits providing basic supplies for learning have arrived at Directorate of Education (DOE) warehouses in 12 governorates. Iraq has 21 Directorates of Education, including four in Baghdad and one in every other governorate. Each DOE is now coordinating with local schools to arrange for kit distribution. The transport time from warehouse to school depends on the number of schools in the DOE and the local security environment. The remaining 326,460 student kits are currently in storage at Umm Qasr seaport and will soon be delivered to DOE warehouses. A USAID partner is facilitating the distribution as part of the second year of programming for the improvement of basic education in Iraq. By the end of the program, more than 525,000 students in 2,014 schools will receive kits.

Sixteen students and faculty from two northern Iraqi universities recently completed a one-week workshop on statistics and experimental design. The workshop was held at a research center with expertise in the Middle East region's agricultural sciences. Three participants were women.

The workshop focused on using technology, mathematical models, and other techniques to make experimental research more robust. There were several opportunities during the active workshop for participants to practice new techniques using computer laboratories.

The conference was supported by USAID's Higher Education and Development (HEAD) partnership between the University of Hawaii and two northern Iraqi universities. The HEAD Agricultural Sciences partnership is helping Iraqi universities revitalize academic programs and rehabilitate research infrastructure such as critical online resources.

Three Iraqi universities are building capacity in public health and sanitation university education with support from HEAD. The program partner is the Mississippi Consortium for International Development (MCID), led by Jackson State University; recent accomplishments include:

Restoring Libraries and Laboratories. Micropipettes have been delivered to a college of medicine, and a bacteria colony counter was delivered to an Environmental and Water Resource Center in northern Iraq. In addition, two residual chlorine meters, an atomic absorption unit and three spectrophotometers arrived at two colleges of engineering. A flame photo meter and a water level meter are currently in route to Iraq.

Supporting Faculty Training. Seventeen faculty members from colleges of medicine, dentistry, nursing and pharmacy at an Iraqi university completed a workshop on "Writing Manuscripts for Medical Journals", and 15 attended a second workshop on "Teaching the Preclinical Medical Student", both given by the Chairman of the Pathology department at an MCID university.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Vaccinated over 3 million children under five and 700,000 pregnant women with vaccination campaigns that included monthly immunization days.
- Provided supplementary doses of vitamin A for more than 600,000 children under two and 1.5 million lactating mothers.
- Provided iron folate supplements for over 1.6 million women of childbearing age.
- Screened more than 1.3 million children under five for malnutrition.
- Distributed high protein biscuits to more than 450,000 children and 200,000 pregnant and nursing mothers.
- Provided potable water for 400,000 persons each day in Basrah city and 170,000 persons in Kirkuk and Mosul.
- Provided skills training for 2,500 primary health care providers and 700 physicians.
- Trained 2,000 health educators, teachers, religious leaders and youth to mobilize communities on hygiene, diarrhea, breastfeeding, nutrition and immunization issues.
- Disseminated information on essential health messages to families around the country.
- Renovated 110 primary health care centers.
- Provided vaccines and cold chain equipment to selected health centers.
- Developed a national plan for the fortification of wheat flour with iron and folic acid.

USAID's goals include supporting a reformed Iraqi Ministry of Health, delivering essential health services, funding vaccines and high protein biscuits for pregnant and nursing mothers and malnourished children, providing basic primary health care equipment and supplies, training and upgrading health staff, providing health education and information, and identify the specific needs of the health sector and of vulnerable populations such as women and children.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

USAID's Iraq Transition Initiative (ITI) is providing thousands of grants to support the activities of local government institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Recent ITI accomplishments in the area of health include:

- An ITI grant supported the rehabilitation of a health clinic in central Iraq that will benefit 250,000 people. The work will also build the capacity of local medical practitioners and encourage political stability and moderation by demonstrating that positive change can take place in the new Iraq.
- A \$13,000 ITI grant supported the publication of a health care association journal in south-central Iraq. The magazine helps educate health care professionals and the general public on modern practices. Members of the association previously participated in democracy trainings organized by USAID's Local Governance Program, and are now working to reestablish health care facilities and disseminate medical information.
- A \$57,481 ITI grant helped to renovate a primary health care clinic in south central Iraq, providing new windows and doors, roof repair, and the installation of sanitation and water systems. The grant also supported discussions with diverse community groups who identified improved health care facilities as a community priority.
- An ITI grant valued at \$53,163 allowed a second primary health care clinic in south central Iraq to rehabilitate its facilities. The grant provided the labor and equipment needed to install new doors and windows, repair the roof, sanitize the water system and replace damaged tiles.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Awarded more than 2,926 small grants totaling more than \$236.9 million for quick impact activities that support good governance, civil society, conflict management and mitigation, human rights and transitional justice.
- Funded over 60 grants totaling \$3 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 Iraqi access to information and communication, and encouraging protection of human rights.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

USAID's Iraq Transition Initiative (ITI) is providing thousands of grants to support the activities of local government institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Below are highlights of recent accomplishments in the areas Education and Public Services.

- The local government of a governorate in south central Iraq rehabilitated a boys' primary school in collaboration with the local community and with the assistance of an ITI grant valued at over \$180,000. The school had been damaged in the military conflict and received new floors, furnishings and other essential improvements. A second ITI grant installed new floors, windows, doors and essential equipment at another school.
- An NGO in central Iraq organized seminars on community values and democratic participation for college students through a \$17,500 ITI grant. The NGO is one of three in the area that works with students to identify small development projects based on university community needs. As part of this initiative, university departments submit project proposals and students elect the highest-priority project to implement and monitor.
- Two ITI grants valued at approximately \$200,000 each supported the rehabilitation of a college in south central Iraq, providing for the installation of new floors, windows, doors, and other necessary improvements to classrooms, study halls, and bathrooms.
- A municipality in northern Iraq removed trash and rubble from a neglected neighborhood with the assistance of an ITI grant valued at \$109,272. The project created temporary employment for approximately 40 residents in this multi-ethnic district.

A grant from USAID's Iraq Transition Initiative (ITI) helped a district advisory council in south central Iraq repair its local water supply network.

Local authorities consulted with citizens and determined that the health risks resulting from a highly contaminated water supply system necessitated a plan for improving the network in the village. ITI's assistance, valued at \$221,100, provided the labor and equipment needed to enact network renovations that allow for clean and potable water to be supplied to the village of approximately 3,500 residents.

An ITI grant valued at \$40,000 supported the refurbishment of five local government directorates in northern Iraq – Departments of Water, Water Resources (irrigation), Agriculture, Electricity and Sewage. The ITI grant will strengthen the capacity of these five local directorates to provide basic services to the community, increase public confidence in the local government, and improve the quality of life in this multi-ethnic, multi-religious district.

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

Municipal solid waste specialists from USAID's Local Governance Program (LGP) continued to work with the Baghdad Mayorality on the development of a landfill in the city's northeast. During the past week, geo-tech testing and survey fieldwork were completed and the Ministry of Defense signed a letter granting permission to proceed with the project. LGP is also conducting ongoing training for Mayorality staff members on managing and designing effective systems for solid waste collection, transfer, and dumping. Training will provide an opportunity for Mayorality staff involved in solid waste activities to interact, ask questions, and address issues related to solid waste management. Finally, 658 dumpsters have been received by the Mayorality.

LGP specialists recently concluded a computer training course for 20 engineers and administrative staff members from the Wasit Potable Water and Sewage Directorate and the Al Kut Municipality. Training focused on building skills in basic word processing and computer use. The next step will be providing these agencies with training in report, agenda and meeting-minutes writing.

Staff from USAID's Local Governance Program in northern Iraq recently completed a five-day Institutional Audit and Strategic Planning Session with the Ministry of Municipalities in Arbil governorate. The session assisted the Ministry in generating its five-year plan using data that was collected over the past several months surveying how staff perceived the Ministry and its functions. Survey questions focused on obtaining the staff's perspectives on the major strengths and weaknesses of the Ministry, its mission, threats to its mission, and how they envisioned the general public's perception of the Ministry. The individual 30-minute interviews allowed them to speak freely, confidentially, and without the influence of others.

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, southwest 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 across Iraq 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

As a result of the military operations in Fallujah, most of the city's population fled to different cities and villages. Staff from USAID's Community Action Program (CAP) recently conducted a survey of displaced Fallujah families in the areas outside of Baghdad city. This survey included tallying the numbers of the families, verifying this number according to the ration cards, and assessing their urgent needs. Based on the results, it was decided that the most urgent needs were in the villages because of their poor conditions and lack of resources. 1733 families benefited from emergency assistance, with a total cost of \$145,045. The distributed items consisted of food, medicines and winterization items.

The rehabilitation of a Girls' Vocational School in Karbala Governorate was recently completed through a cooperative effort between the local community and CAP. The school, the only of its kind in the city, provides commercial vocational training to nearly 1,000 students in fields such as accounting and sewing.



Students work in a newly furnished and equipped

CAP is awarding grants ranging from \$500 to \$25,000 to individuals in CAP-supported communities who meet specific conditions and criteria related to the development of farm and small and medium enterprises. The program will provide seed funding, training and assistance to vulnerable persons who would otherwise not qualify for a small loan or grant program. Grants will only be in the form of equipment and materials. Approximately 112 SME grant applications had been screened as of early January. Of these, 32 were approved (valued at \$133,169), 17 of which were contracted. It is anticipated that these 32 approved projects will create 135 long-term jobs, including 69 jobs for females.

CAP is implementing an overall program in northern Iraq to help youth establish organizations and activities with democratic structures, and to be a force in reconciliation and stability. There are high levels of trauma, isolation and anxiety among Iraqi youth. Helping them organize themselves and develop activities will work against youth alienation and reduce the pool of potential recruits for terrorist organizations.

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 the Iraqi Republican Railway line connecting Basrah with the port of Umm Qasr including physical track construction, installing culverts, and repairing gatehouses. 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 3, 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

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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: \$157,593,161
Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$8,196,194
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

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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	\$22,553,653
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.....			\$4,825,454,428

* 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.