



IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION WEEKLY UPDATE

September 22, 2004

This report highlights overall accomplishments and weekly activities from USAID’s reconstruction efforts in Iraq. For more information on USAID’s programs in Iraq please visit www.usaid.gov/iraq.

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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. The USAID mission in Iraq carries out programs in education, health care, food security, infrastructure reconstruction, airport management, economic growth, community development, democracy and governance, and transition initiatives.

Photo: Artwork from a USAID funded exhibition in southern Iraq



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Electricity

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

Highlights this week:

- Installation of electrical generators at Baghdad International Airport is approximately 50 percent complete, and is expected to be complete in late fall 2004. This project is rehabilitating and replacing the generation system at the airport to provide both primary



Workers aligning oil cooler for a new generator

and back-up power. The project includes the installation of two new back-up generator sets generating 5 MW each and the refurbishment of a primary generator, which has the capacity to produce 8 MW. The project is also repairing the 11 kv system which distributes power around the airport.

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Generated a peak of 4,518 MW on October 6, 2003, exceeding the capacity generated before the conflict. This was the first major milestone in Iraq's electrical system reconstruction.
- In summer 2004, after months of power reduction for generation unit maintenance, generation began steadily increasing.
- Repairing thermal units, replacing turbines, rehabilitating the power distribution network, and installing and restoring generators.
- USAID has added 340 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 2,000 MW to the national grid by December 2005 through maintenance, rehabilitation, and new generation projects.
- 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 has also begun an operations and maintenance program to improve the output and reliability of 114 power plant units at 19 thermal and combustion gas turbine generation sites throughout Iraq.



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Water and Sanitation

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 rehabilitation of a wastewater treatment plant in Al Qadisiyah Governorate, which began in August 2003, is on schedule for completion by mid-November. A lack of parts and effective maintenance during the previous regime caused failure of the mechanical and electrical equipment in the plant, preventing wastewater treatment and creating a health hazard through the contamination of groundwater and the local river. Work for this project includes cleaning the plant's aeration tanks and distribution chambers, refurbishing the plant's mechanical and electrical systems, and restoring the plant to service. Operations and maintenance training will also be provided to ensure sustainability of the project. Currently, the mechanical and electrical work is about 80 percent complete. Once all work is complete, this project will serve approximately 80,000 local residents. This project is one of six USAID water and wastewater treatment plant rehabilitation projects in central Iraq.
- USAID's work at a Baghdad wastewater treatment plant, which began in August 2003, is nearing completion, and is scheduled to finish on October 15. The plant, which was built in the 1960s, is one of three sewage plants in Baghdad. These plants have the capacity to treat the wastewater from 70 to 80% of Baghdad's 4.7 million residents. One of the plants already began treating wastewater in June 2004 as a result of USAID rehabilitation work.
 - ◊ The USAID portion of this project included cleaning of unit process tanks, restoration of site buildings, landscaping, and installation of 11kv electrical transformers, switchgear, cabling, as well as supply tools, equipment, and laboratory equipment. Upon completion of all US government projects at this plant, the plant will provide wastewater treatment services for nearly a third of all Baghdad residents. This plant is scheduled to come online in February 2005.



A wastewater treatment plant in central Iraq

Major Accomplishments to Date

- **Nationwide:** Repaired various lift stations and treatment units.
- **Baghdad:** Expanding one water treatment plant to increase capacity by more than 50 million gallons per day and rehabilitating sewage treatment plants.
 - ◊ A major wastewater treatment plant in Baghdad began operating in June of 2004; this is the first major 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:** Rehabilitating parts of the Sweet Water Canal system, including repairing breaches, cleaning the main reservoir, and refurbishing 14 water treatment plants around Basrah serving 1.75 million people.
- **South Central:** Rehabilitating two water plants and four sewage plants.
 - ◊ Sewage plants in An Najaf, Al Qadisiyah, Karbala', and Babil Governorates will serve 440,000.
 - ◊ Water treatment in Najaf and Babil will serve residents and visitors at Iraq's holiest shrines.
- **North:** Rehabilitating two water plants and one sewage plant near Mosul and Kirkuk.



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Airports

USAID's goal is to provide material and personnel for the repair of airport facilities, rehabilitate airport terminals, facilitate humanitarian and commercial flights, and assist the Iraqi Airport Commission Authority.

Highlights this week:

- USAID's rehabilitation of Basrah International Airport's water and wastewater treatment plants is nearing completion. Rehabilitation of these plants is the final step in USAID's program to rehabilitate Basrah International Airport. Both plants are expected to be complete in October, and will serve approximately 4,000 individuals at the airport.
 - ◇ USAID has also completed the following projects which prepared the airport to begin commercial operations: cleaned and refurbished pavement (runway, taxiways and apron) lines and markings; installed airport signage as required to meet current FAA and International Civil Aviation Organization standards; constructed 20 kilometers of new perimeter fence and 7 kilometers of airside fence; supplied, installed, and commissioned a Land Mobile Radio System and trained local operators; and provided baggage X-ray units.

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Flights have been arriving and departing Baghdad International Airport since July 2003. BIAP is processing an average of 45 non-military arrivals and departures daily.
- Completed emergency infrastructure work at BIAP for civil air operations, including repairing Terminal C and administration offices and installing VSAT communications systems and 6.5 megawatt power generators.
- Completed work which is preparing Al Basrah International Airport for commercial operations, including installing VSAT and radio communications; runway, taxiway, and apron striping; and installing baggage x-ray units and a perimeter fence.

Seaports

USAID's goal was to rehabilitate and improve management at the port, manage port administration, coordinate transport from the seaport, and facilitate cargo-handling services such as warehousing, shipment tracking, and storage.



Dredger at Umm Qasr Seaport, rehabilitated by USAID

Major Accomplishments to Date

- USAID's \$45 million programs to rehabilitate and improve management at the port were 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 cargo 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.



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Bridges and Roads

USAID's goal is to rebuild major transportation routes that were damaged or neglected in order to restore the flow of goods and services.



The reconstruction of the Khazir Bridge, a four-lane bridge in northern Iraq, was complete in early April.

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Completed 36 detailed bridge assessments and demolished irreparable sections in preparation for the rehabilitation of three major bridges in Iraq. Two bridges have been repaired and reopened while the last is set for completion in September 2004.
- Repaired a floating bridge over the Tigris River improving traffic in the region for 50,000 travelers a day.
- Completed an assessment of over one hundred 1,100 km lengths of track and associated facilities throughout the country to identify priority projects.
- Constructing 72 kilometers of new track and facilities between the Port of Umm Qasr and Shuaiba Junction, located west of Basrah.

Telecommunications

As part of USAID's effort to restore critical infrastructure, USAID is working with the Iraq Telecommunications and Postal Commission (ITPC) to restore the nation's fiber optic network, repair the phone switching system in Baghdad and restore international telecommunications capability.

Al Mamoun Telecommunications Site. USAID officially handed over Al Mamoun to the Ministry of Communications on February 26. Thirteen new telephone switches and an International Satellite Gateway were integrated at the site with fourteen Iraqi Telephone and Postal Company switches allowing more than 100,000 individual subscriber lines to be connected. Because of the work at Al Mamoun, international calling service was returned to Iraq on December 30, 2003. All fully operational telephones nationwide can access the switch at Al Mamoun and the International Satellite Gateway.



Major Accomplishments to Date

- 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 13 new switches, and fully integrated them with the 14 existing switches.
- Ministry of Communications reactivated more than 213,000 subscriber lines.
- Installed a satellite gateway system at Baghdad's largest telecom exchange and restored international service.
- Trained ITPC engineers and technicians in the operation and maintenance of the satellite gateway system and the new switches.



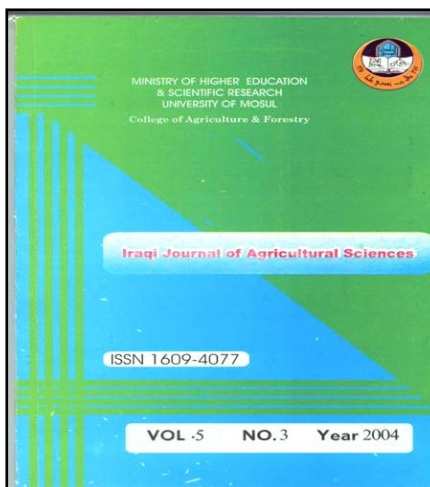
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Education

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:

- USAID's legal education reform university partnership is progressing rapidly and exceeding program goals. At one partnership program this summer, thirty-nine Iraqi law school faculty and legal experts attended a three-week International Law Conference, which included visits to six cities in Egypt and Italy. Also this summer, six Iraqi law faculty specialists attended a two-week intensive training and outreach program in Chicago, Illinois on the American legal system. Additionally, a clinical legal education program has been initiated at two Iraqi law colleges. The library renovation projects at the three universities are also moving forward rapidly. The first university renovation project is approximately 75% complete, and is expected to be finished by the beginning of the fall semester in October.
- A new edition of the Iraqi Journal of Agricultural Sciences was published this week. It was sponsored by USAID and published by an agricultural college at a university in northern Iraq. The new edition contains 18 papers in Arabic on the agricultural economics, food science, forestry, field crops, and plant protection. Two articles, on soil science and forestry, are published in English. The journal also included an article about the USAID agricultural sciences partnership under expressed its appreciation for the sponsorship. The partnership is aimed at improving agricultural studies throughout Iraq and is led by the University of Hawaii. This journal is helping to enhance research and faculty development at the Iraqi universities and is also providing a new forum for agricultural studies after years of isolation for Iraq's higher education system.



Iraqi Journal of Agricultural Sciences

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 U.S. and Iraqi universities. Through these partnerships, Iraqi universities are rebuilding infrastructure; re-equipping university facilities; participating in international conferences; attending workshops and refresher courses; and reforming curriculum.



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Health

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 is committed to improving nutrition in Iraq with a special emphasis on expectant mothers and children under the age of five. This goal is being met through several USAID programs including the health, emergency assistance, and education programs. Most recently, initiatives to improve nutrition have been implemented through USAID's health partnership with UNICEF. During the past month, UNICEF has helped to deliver supplies for improved nutrition and is also supporting nutrition training for medical staff. Supplies have included the delivery of 543 metric tons of high protein biscuits throughout Iraq and the procurement of 215 grain feeders to support wheat flour fortification. Using USAID funds, UNICEF is also planning a national micronutrient assessment in Iraq.

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, breast-feeding, 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.



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Economic Governance

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.

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.
- Improved statistical analysis, monetary policymaking, and bank supervision procedures at Iraq's Central Bank.
- Provided technical assistance for CPA's \$21 million microcredit program.
- Provided technical assistance for the Oil for Food transition to prepare Iraqi ministries to assume responsibility for OFF contracts.
- Evaluated and updated commercial laws on private sector and foreign investment.
- Assisted in developing the reconstruction levy in collaboration with the CPA and the UK Customs Service; this levy imposes a five percent tariff on imports to Iraq.
- Developed a government-wide IT strategy to support the automation of planning, budgeting and reporting processes across ministries.
- Provided technical assistance as well as information on contracting opportunities for Iraqi businesses 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.

Highlights this week:

- On September 13, USAID's Private Sector Development Initiative held its first workshop for an Iraqi NGO that provides micro and small business loans. The workshop covered human resource management, including personnel performance review, vetting and reference checking, and job description development. The program's second workshop, on financial lending techniques, is scheduled for late September. In addition, an informational briefing was delivered at the Iraqi-American Chamber of Commerce and Industry to begin developing training opportunities for members.
 - ◊ The Iraq Private Sector Development Initiative is a new USAID program awarded in late July 2004. It is providing training, technical assistance, consulting, and business entrepreneurship services to Iraqi businesses to promote the expansion of a competitive and efficient private sector.



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Agriculture

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.

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.

Highlights this week:

- A workshop has been conducted for farmers participating in the Winter Vegetables Research and Extension Project in Arbil Governorate. The workshop was conducted for radish farmers who will be carrying out assessments of three different varieties in their fields. This project was developed to find methods of improving vegetable farmers' income and to develop a model research and extension approach to respond to farmer needs. The main focus of the project is on the farmers' assessments. This project will also strengthen linkages between research and extension as the staff from the two agencies work together with farmers on the fields.



A workshop for farmers in Arbil Governorate

- Initiatives to increase crop production in Iraq's marshland areas are progressing. Last week, planting at date palm farm nurseries began, with the first planting completed on September 5 and the remaining six expected to be complete by the end of September. A total of 3,500 offshoots will be planted at these sites. These nurseries will introduce new date palm varieties and planting techniques to increase date production, bringing a new source of income to the area. In addition, preparations for wheat, barley, and broad bean planting will begin on September 15 with land-cultivation beginning at the end of September and planting by mid-October.



Planting date palm offshoots in Iraq's marshland areas



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Marshlands

USAID's marshland restoration initiative works with local residents in support of marshland restoration and the social and economic development of marsh communities.



A settlement in Iraq's marshlands

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Marshland restoration activities have included surveys, pilot sites, flow and marsh hydrology modeling, and infrastructure needs assessments.
- Produced a technical assessment in June 2003 in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources and the a major university.
- Implementing a strategy for marsh restoration, which includes ecosystem monitoring, wetland reconstruction, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, agribusiness, fishing and aquaculture, livestock and dairy production, and primary healthcare.
- Improving capacity through laboratory and GIS development, study tours, training, and formulation of a strategy for international donor assistance and participation.

Food Security

As part of the U.S. Government's assistance plan, USAID played a leading role in helping to avert a humanitarian crisis in Iraq by providing assistance to the United Nations' World Food Program through USAID's Office of Food for Peace. Having averted a food crisis immediately following the conflict, USAID advisors continue to assist with the management and distribution of food rations for all Iraqi citizens.



Workers load food supplies from a World Food Program warehouse in Umm Qasr, for distribution through local neighborhood agents. USAID supports the program which provides basic food rations to a large number of needy families in Southern Iraq.

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Worked directly with the World Food Program (WFP) and Coalition Forces to re-establish the Public Distribution System (PDS) 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.
- Providing support to the Ministry of Trade for ongoing PDS operations. Currently, more than 480,000 metric tons of food is being delivered each month.
- 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.



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Local Governance

USAID's Local Governance Program (LGP) goals include promoting diverse and 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:

- The Kurdistan Regional Government's Ministry of Culture has completed construction of an Internet café and training center at a major historic landmark in northern Iraq. The café will allow approximately 2,000 people to access the Internet. Staff from the Ministry of Culture will manage the center, which will also be used to enter historical and archaeological data into the Ministry's new antiquities database.
- Twelve district and sub-district council members from At' Tamim Governorate participated in an LGP-supported training seminar on September 4 called "Budgeting: A Democratic Process". During the seminar, participants discussed the historic role of the council and proposed budgeting processes and decisions.
- Eleven staff members from an Al Basrah Education Directorate's finance department have completed a six day basic computer skills training to allow them to operate a new computerized payroll program for the Directorate's 24,000 employees. This new system will streamline the monthly payroll process and improve the overall efficiency of the personnel, finance, and audit departments. The training covered an array of Microsoft programs, including Word, Excel and Access.
- Thirty government officials and supervisors from Al Basrah Governorate attended a workshop on auditing and financial management on September 8. The workshop had several major activities including briefing local officials on the role of the Board of Supreme Audit, which is responsible for auditing government agencies for waste and fraud; briefing officials on the Iraqi Public Procurement Order; distributing information on finance and audit activities offered by LGP; and seeking input from local officials to plan future training activities.
- A market in Al Basrah Governorate has been cleaned-up and repaired to provide vendors with a safe, sanitary working space.

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Established regional offices in Al Basrah, Al Hillah, Baghdad, and Mosul with local offices established in 17 out of 18 governorates 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. In the second year, a similar grants program worth \$13 million is being implemented.
- Facilitated the establishment or refreshment of 16 governorate councils, 90 district councils, 194 city or sub-district councils, and 445 neighborhood councils.
- Organized and carried out numerous selection processes for governors and mayors, as well as local council elections, throughout Iraq.
- Committed \$2.4 million for the nationwide Civic Education Campaign, which educated Iraqis on democracy and Iraq's political situation. Rehabilitated and refurbished government facilities.
- Supported preparation of 2004 city council budgets in Baghdad, Mosul, Al Hillah, Babil, and An Najaf.
- More than 25,800 democracy dialogues have been conducted to date.
- 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 democracy.



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Community Action Program

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:

- Community members in Al Basrah Governorate have completed construction of a carpentry workshop at a local orphanage with the help of CAP. The orphanage supports about 1,000 children and is run by a local organization which provides them with health and educational services to improve their opportunities in the future.
- In Wasit Governorate, a sports club rehabilitation project was completed. The project provided four new halls for boxing and wrestling as well as a four room management suite. In addition, the club now has new basketball and volleyball courts as well as a new illuminated soccer field. The rehabilitated club will directly benefit 750 local residents.
- In Salah ad Din Governorate, a new youth center project has been completed. This center provides space for local youth to practice soccer, basketball, computer applications, training courses, music, and plays. It also provided the community and the youth of the area a safe and pleasant venue for social interaction.
- The rehabilitation of a Baghdad university library has been completed. The rehabilitation was identified as a priority by Baghdad community members through CAP. The community began the work on February 24; the project included repairs to the main library, supplies of new shelving materials, and new furniture for the common areas. The equipment supplied included air coolers, computers, printers, data show, and water coolers. The project cost \$107,269 and was completed in August 2004.

Major Accomplishments to Date

- USAID has committed over \$92 million to 1,966 projects while Iraqi communities have committed more than 25% of total funding. CAP has established over 670 community associations 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 271 projects with over \$11 million in total project commitments including establishing a youth center in Hawija, 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 the Shi'i holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, as well as Hillah through active community associations. A strong emphasis on critical infrastructure needs has provided these communities with sewage and water services, improved schools, and repaired vital social infrastructure. They have completed 219 projects and have over \$13.5 million in project commitments.
 - ◊ Income generation is an important emphasis in the Baghdad program where 289 projects have been completed through community action groups. A marketplace for over 700 vendors is being constructed, and crews are cleaning up medical waste dumps and educating medical personnel on proper disposal methods. Total project commitments are \$16.2 million.
 - ◊ In the southeast central region, 125 projects are complete with a total of \$13.7 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 378 projects through 138 community action groups which average 40% women's participation. Projects have focused primarily on immediate community needs such as sewage clean up, water treatment and distribution, public health, and girls' access to education. Total project commitments are \$15.9 million.



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Transition Initiatives

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) supports the transition to a participatory, stable, and democratic country. OTI provides quick-dispensing, high-impact grants. OTI's fast-paced assistance meets 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.

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Awarded more than 1,700 small grants totaling more than \$134.9 million for quick impact activities that support good governance, civil society, conflict management and mitigation, human rights and transitional justice.
- Supporting initiatives crucial to the democratic transition, including civic education, civil society and media development, increased women's participation, conflict mitigation and transitional justice. Groups targeted for assistance include women's and youth groups, professional associations and human rights organizations.
- 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.
- 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.

Highlights this week:

- Over 470 young people in southern Iraq are participating in a technical training program with the assistance of a USAID OTI grant. This training program will improve capacity in the region by providing the materials, teachers and other logistics to support a three month training program. Participants are learning technical skills that will allow them to be employed as welders, tool and die makers and other vocations.
- A southern Iraqi organization completed renovations to a rehabilitation center that will provide disabled persons with rehabilitation services, educational programs and skills to help them reintegrate into society. The OTI grant helped renovate the center's facilities and provided equipment for handicapped individuals.
- OTI recently supported workshops to allow Iraqis to discuss the country's developing democracy. In the first series of workshops, journalists, Muslim clerics, and members of the public participated in sessions on the issue of terrorism. The workshops addressed people's understanding of Islam's view of terrorism, tolerance and the protection of human life. Under another similar initiative, an Iraqi NGO and cultural center conducted workshops on democracy and elections for 800 participants in vulnerable towns in northern Iraq.
- Approximately 70 painters and sculptors from southern Iraq recently had the opportunity to participate in two art exhibitions through the support of grants from USAID. The Chairman of the exhibitions described one of them, titled "Human and Reality", as an effort "to inform the next generation that the aim of people today is to search for peace and security."



Workshop held on terrorism in Iraq



Artwork from a USAID funded exhibition in southern Iraq



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Financial Summary

*FY 2003-2004**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Obligation</i>
RECONSTRUCTION			
USAID/ANE			Subtotal: \$3,488,457,110
Abt Associates	Health	Countrywide	\$22,624,704
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	\$20,000,000
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	\$1,443,359,782
Community Action Program	Development in impoverished communities	Countrywide	\$120,080,000
DAI	Marshlands	Dhi Qar Al Basrah Maysan	\$4,000,000
DAI	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$11,352,912
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 II	Education II	Countrywide	\$51,809,000
CEPPS	Education Activities in Support of Electoral Processes	Countrywide	\$18,725,000
CEPPS	Iraq Governing Council	Countrywide	\$675,000
CEPPS	Transitional Government	Countrywide	\$20,700,000
CEPPS	Election Observers	Countrywide	\$5,500,000
UNICEF	Health, Water, and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$36,700,000
UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$19,600,000
UNESCO	Textbook Printing and Distribution: Math and Science	Countrywide	\$10,000,000



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Financial Summary

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<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Obligation</i>
WHO	Strengthen Health System	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
SSA	Port Management	Umm 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 	Various universities countrywide	\$20,730,000
Yankee Group	Telecoms Planning	Countrywide	\$58,150
VEGA	Business Skills Training	Countrywide	\$4,800,000
UNDP	Trust Fund Contribution	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
World Bank	Trust Fund Contribution	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
EMERGENCY RELIEF			
USAID/DCHA/OFDA.....			\$97,521,781
AirServ	Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,309,876
ARC	Capacity building, Disaster support	Al Basrah	\$537,746
The Cuny Center	Research studies	Countrywide	\$40,260
GOAL	Coordination, Nutrition	Al Muthanna'	\$1,507,900
IDA	Health	Countrywide	\$1,318,437
InterAction	Coordination	Kuwait City	\$92,860
IOM	IDP programs	Countrywide	\$6,545,780
Logistics	Commodities and DART support	Countrywide	\$22,553,653
UNICEF	Health, nutrition, water/sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
UN OCHA	Coordination and Information	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
USAID/Jordan	Support for emergency water activities	Countrywide	\$500,000
WFP	Logistics and pre-positioning of food	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
IMC	Food Security, Health, Nutrition, Water/Sanitation, Capacity building	Countrywide	\$16,252,898



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<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Obligation</i>
IRC	Health, Water/Sanitation	Countrywide	\$7,800,411
Mercy Corps	Health, Non-Food Items, Shelter, Water/Sanitation	Countrywide	\$8,499,786
SCF/US	Food Security, Health, Shelter, Nutrition, Non-Food Items, Water/Sanitation, NGO Consortium	Countrywide	\$7,957,783
World Vision	Health, Logistics, Non-Food Items, Water/Sanitation	Countrywide	\$6,793,739
CARE	Quick-impact projects, Water/Sanitation, Health, Blankets	Countrywide	\$9,000,000
USAID/DCHA/FFP.....			\$425,571,000
WFP	Operations	Countrywide	\$45,000,000
WFP	Emerson Trust – 81,500 MT	Countrywide	\$40,337,000
WFP	P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities – 163,820 MT	Countrywide	\$140,234,000
WFP	Regional Purchase – 330,000 MT	Countrywide	\$200,000,000
USAID/DCHA/OTI.....			\$200,825,691
IOM	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$7,087,595
DAI	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$188,985,309
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 IN FY 2003/2004			4,212,375,582

* 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.



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