



# *Iraq Fact Sheet* **United States Institute of Peace**

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USIP is an independent, nonpartisan, national institution established and funded by Congress. Our mission is to help prevent, manage, and resolve violent conflicts by empowering others with knowledge, skills, and resources, as well as by our direct engagement in peacebuilding efforts on the ground in conflict zones around the world.

USIP has been in Iraq since 2004. We engage on both the community and national levels, but focus primarily on building peace in Iraq community by community. We assist the military, PRTs and local leaders in their efforts to sustain the security improvements of the last year. Below are some examples of our work:

- **Network of Iraqi Trainer-Facilitators:** In 2004, USIP trained several dozen conflict resolution facilitators. Since then, these facilitators have engaged in over 80 peacebuilding efforts at the community level. Due to heavy demand for their services, we are expanding this network to 100 individuals by June of 2008. USIP facilitators are drawn from across Iraq's ethnic and religious landscape and receive intensive training in conflict management techniques.
- [The Mahmudiya Peacebuilding Model](#): In October 2007, USIP and its Iraqi facilitators worked closely with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division and the ePRT to shepherd a path-breaking reconciliation conference among 32 tribal sheikhs from South Baghdad. The sheikhs conceived and signed an accord committing themselves to bringing security to the district and improving quality of life. USIP is currently overseeing the implementation of the action plan and working to improve coordination between the tribal leaders and local and central government structures. USIP intends to apply the "Mahmudiya model" to other communities across Iraq.
- **Conflict Management Training (CMT):** Designed to provide basic instruction in negotiation, mediation and group problem solving techniques, USIP facilitators have conducted dozens of these workshops across Baghdad and Iraq. Typically lasting two to three days, these workshops target key local leaders and stakeholders whose communities have recently experienced tension and/or violence.

- **SENSE (Strategic Economic Needs and Security Exercise):** Developed in the aftermath of the Balkan wars, SENSE is a software-based role-playing exercise that simulates resource allocation challenges in a post-conflict environment. Decision makers learn negotiation, coalition building, planning, and resource management skills necessary to make time-sensitive choices affecting political stability, social justice and economic development. This intensive training lasts five days and is conducted in tandem with the two-day CMT course.
- **Civic Education:** USIP has overseen the creation of an Iraqi civics curriculum entitled *The Rights of the Citizen*. Developed with Iraqi education specialists, this 11-lesson plan teaches children ages 14-18 their basic rights and responsibilities as citizens in a democracy. It also imparts lessons on diversity, human rights, and peaceful coexistence.
- **Iraqi Youth Dialogue:** During five years of conflict, very little attention has been paid to Iraq's most critical resource: its young people. To encourage Iraqi youth to be catalysts for peaceful change, USIP is bringing together young leaders from across sectarian and ethnic divides to build a common understanding of the nation they want to live in.
- **Baghdad Unit:** USIP helped establish the Baghdad University Unit for Peace Studies and Human Rights to provide an institutional venue for conflict resolution and human rights education on campus. The Unit is working to establish links with other universities throughout Iraq.
- **Promoting the Rule of Law:** USIP has undertaken a variety of projects aimed at establishing the rule of law in Iraq. Currently, we are working with the Iraqi Ministry of Migration and Displacement to develop a plan to address the property claims of Iraq's displaced population. USIP also supports efforts to establish an independent judiciary and provides technical assistance to the Constitutional Review Committee in the Iraqi parliament.
- **Growing Civil Society:** Since 2004, USIP has provided over \$6 million in grants to support the growth of Iraqi civil society organizations dedicated to the prevention and resolution of conflict.
- **Training Government Officials:** USIP provides cross-institutional training to Iraqi government officials to improve coordination and problem-solving capacity.