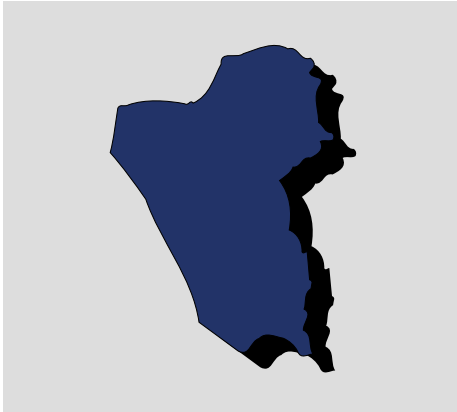


# REBUILDING IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN



## IRAQ

The rebuilding of Iraq is the largest reconstruction effort undertaken by the U.S. Government since the Marshall Plan. Since 2003, USAID has been a key player in this effort, working in Iraq to encourage economic growth; support democracy and build the capacity of national and local government; bring agricultural products to market; and provide humanitarian assistance to displaced and vulnerable populations. USAID also helped to rehabilitate Iraq's critical infrastructure and health and education systems. Many of its activities are implemented by USAID partners working together with provincial reconstruction teams throughout the country.

In areas prone to high levels of insurgency and violence, USAID works with community groups, local government officials, and provincial reconstruction teams to provide stability through activities centering on conflict mitigation and employment generation, such as public works projects, vocational training, and apprenticeships. Micro-grants and business trainings are also available to

encourage small business development. To engage marginalized and vulnerable youth, USAID supports recreational clubs, sports tournaments, drama presentations, and other activities for young Iraqis.

USAID's work in Iraq bridges the transition from the short-term provision of essential services to long-term, integrated, and Iraqi-led development. Providing a focused approach to essential issues, USAID is committed to working closely with the people of Iraq to build the foundation for a prosperous and secure nation.

Summary of USAID's achievements during FY 2008:

- Promoted entrepreneurialism through business skills training to 1,800 entrepreneurs and by opening four new Small Business Development Centers.
- Expanded employment opportunities including 45,000 short-term jobs and approximately 14,000 long-term jobs.
- Stimulated private sector growth through the establishment of a sustainable micro, small and medium scale enterprise sector which distributed \$200 million in cumulative loans to more than 95,000 beneficiaries.
- Enhanced the capacity of local government by training 15,000 Iraqi local government officials in development planning and public finance.
- Assisted displaced and vulnerable Iraqis through \$75.3 million in emergency assistance to renovate vital infrastructure, such as schools and roads; improve health facilities; repair water and

sanitation networks; create jobs; and distribute non-food items.

- Assisted over 625,000 victims of war through the Marla Ruzicka Iraqi War Victims Fund.
- Strengthened counterinsurgency efforts by providing over 4.6 million days of employment to Iraqi nationals and involving nearly 170,000 Iraqi youth in soccer, the arts, and life skills programs.

Please refer to the following for additional information:

USAID Iraq website: <http://www.usaid.gov/iraq/>

USAID Office of Inspector General, Reports to Management, Fiscal Year 2008: [http://www.usaid.gov/oig/iraq\\_reports\\_fy08.html](http://www.usaid.gov/oig/iraq_reports_fy08.html)

Government Accountability Office, "Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan and Iraq," October 1, 2008: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-86r>

Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, "Quarterly Report to the United States Congress," October 30, 2008: [http://www.sigir.mill/reports/quarterlyreports/Oct08/pdf/Report\\_-\\_October\\_2008.pdf](http://www.sigir.mill/reports/quarterlyreports/Oct08/pdf/Report_-_October_2008.pdf)

## AFGHANISTAN

In 2001, when the Taliban was forced out of power, half of Afghanistan's people lived in absolute poverty, and virtually all of the country's institutions and much of its infrastructure was destroyed. To rebuild the country and combat terrorism, USAID provides the largest bilateral civilian assistance



program to Afghanistan, working to create economic growth, effective and representative governance, and a healthy, well educated population.

USAID is helping Afghanistan grow its economy through building functioning transportation and electricity networks, developing a market-driven agricultural sector, providing business support services, and strengthening property rights. To promote a just and democratic government, USAID focuses on strengthening governance and civil society and improving the management of human resources, financial resources, and service delivery. In the areas of health and education, USAID is rehabilitating clinics and schools, providing vital vaccines, training teachers, and distributing textbooks to students.

Throughout Afghanistan, USAID works with a team of outstanding local and international partners. Delivery of assistance at the provincial level is assisted through provincial reconstruction teams, which are small, joint civilian-military teams designed to improve security, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and facilitate reconstruction. USAID's work in Afghanistan is an excellent example of how the American people are helping the people of Afghanistan build a better future.

Summary of USAID's achievements during FY 2008:

- Expanded the licit economy by providing 109,000 individuals with agricultural, farm management and business training, benefiting over 123,000 families, including over 3,000 women and 15 women's organizations.

This resulted in almost \$23 million in increased sales of licit farm products.

- Stimulated economic growth by providing over 88,000 loans, for a total of \$55 million, to micro and small businesses in 21 of 34 provinces. Fifty-one percent of these loans went to women.
- Expanded the outreach of the financial sector through the establishment of 12 new credit unions and three micro-finance branches, increasing the total number of financial service outlets to over 115.
- Improved transportation routes by constructing 167 kilometers of roads generating over half a million labor days of local employment and over \$2.9 million in local wages.
- Helped keep the lights on for over 415,000 people in five cities through operational and maintenance support to diesel generators and training to 48 employees of the Afghan electric utilities.
- Improved maternal and child health services by training 224 community midwives who are now assisting women with their deliveries.
- Expanded community-based health services by recruiting over 1,500 new

volunteer community health workers, resulting in a total number of 8,445 trained volunteers in USAID-supported provinces.

- Helped Afghanistan improve its management of renewable natural resources by training 5,500 people, including almost 1,000 women, in conservation and protection of natural resources.

Please refer to the following for additional information:

USAID Afghanistan webpage: <http://www.usaid.gov/locations/asia/countries/afghanistan/>

USAID Office of Inspector General, Reports to Management, Fiscal Year 2008: [http://www.usaid.gov/oig/afghanistan\\_reports\\_fy08.html](http://www.usaid.gov/oig/afghanistan_reports_fy08.html)

Government Accountability Office, "Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan and Iraq," October 1, 2008: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-86r>

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Credit: Daniel Wilkinson/State Department

**To date, 100,000 Afghani students, 70% of whom are female, have benefited from U.S. assistance to rebuild schools.**