



RECONSTRUCTION WEEKLY UPDATE

June 30, 2005



The Community Action Program works with People with Disabilities in As Sulaymaniyah. Here an Iraqi man learns about fundraising and advocacy during a workshop designed to strengthen the role of disabled members of a community.

Contents:

Electricity	2	Community Action Program	8
Water and Sanitation	3	Education	9
Economic Governance	4	Transition Initiatives	10
Agriculture	5	Completed Activities.....	11
National Governance.....	6	Financial Summary	12
Local Governance	7		

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 855 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 place an additional 792 MW in the national grid by December 2005 through maintenance, rehabilitation, and new generation projects.
- USAID completed a project to convert two units that produce 80 MW each to operate on crude/heavy fuel oil instead of diesel which is in short supply.
- USAID initiated a project to rehabilitate 13 existing substations and construct 24 new substations in Baghdad. These 37 substations will improve the distribution and reliability of electricity for more than two million Baghdad residents. USAID recently handed over work on 12 of these substations to the Ministry of Electricity.

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

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Work is nearing completion on a project that will allow Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) to achieve 100 percent electrical self-sufficiency.

The BIAP electrical system has an generation output design range of 18 to 22.3 MW and consists of three 33kV power transformers, 11kV and 400 V distribution systems, five diesel generators, and numerous smaller emergency generators. The project includes the refurbishment of the distribution system to facilitate the management and control of generation and load and the addition or replacement of 17 diesel generators. Recent work includes the installation of equipment control panels and the repair of batteries. Overall, the activity is now 98 percent finished and is scheduled for completion this summer.

The new expansion of a power plant in south Baghdad is now producing electricity. The first firing of one of the expansion's two combustion turbines—Unit 1B—took place a day ahead of schedule. On June 16, engineers synchronized Unit 1B with the grid and established a base load of 95 megawatts (MW). This plant expansion is producing megawatts for the Iraqi power grid before the critical summer peak.



Expansion of the Baghdad south power plant is producing power to meet the summer demand peak. The project will add 212 MW to the national grid when finished in August.

Prior to energizing Unit 1B it was necessary to complete a final alignment of the expansion's second combustion turbine generator. Work is currently in progress on balancing the expansion's heavy fuel oil tanks. Six Ministry of Electricity (ME) personnel associated with the plant recently completed operations and maintenance training.

The expansion augments the existing plant at the south Baghdad plant which is a mid-sized thermal power plant with a 132-kilovolt (KV) connection that is serviced by a heavy fuel pipeline. Because the connection and pipeline are suitable for upgrades, Baghdad South was selected for expansion of its electrical generation capacity. Power generation in Iraq is currently not continuous but is limited to about 12 hours a day.

The first phase in the project included site work such as leveling and compacting the soil and the purchase of one of the two 106 MW combustion turbines. Phase One also included the supply of auxiliaries such as skids, modules, switchyard, bus duct, transformers, and embedded conduit system. The second phase includes the purchase and installation of a second 106 MW combustion turbine.

The project is currently 79 percent complete and will add 212 MW to the national grid when finished in August 2005.

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 90 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 reservoirs, 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

Iraqi officials are developing a national water plan. The Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) and USAID recently hosted a planning workshop for to prepare the timeline for developing the resources strategy. Once completed, the strategy will be the first all-inclusive planning document for Iraq's water sector in more than 25 years. At the three-day meeting, 20 participants representing the MWR and the Ministry of Agriculture discussed the importance of using an integrated approach to water resources planning. The Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, the Ministry of the Environment, and the Ministry of Electricity will also contribute to the strategy planning.

Workshop participants discussed the overall two-phase approach to the development of the Water Resources Strategy Plan. In the first, 14-month phase of the plan, data will be collected on relevant aspects of water use in Iraq including irrigation demand, potable drinking water and water for industrial uses. In the second phase, the government will analyze appropriate interventions and carefully identify investment priorities. At the workshop, participants raised the major issues that must be addressed in the final strategy. Toward the end of the conference, the participants developed a work plan, which describes the roles of each contributor.

An important objective of the water strategy is to provide the Iraqi government with information to negotiate international water treaties with its neighbors. At present, a lack of current information on water availability and its use in various sub-sectors puts Iraq at a disadvantage vis-à-vis its upstream neighbors. MWR/USAID anticipates the completion of the first phase within the next 12-14 months, and it will form the basis for the development of Phase 2, which would take 2 to 3 years to complete. Once finished, the plan will serve the country for the next three decades.

USAID's work at water and waste water treatment plants in Ad Dujayl (Diyala Governorate) is complete and the facilities are now servicing the city's 60,000 residents . Work at the water treatment plant was completed on May 26 and on February 27 at the waste water treatment plant. The new water treatment plant will ensure delivery of a safe dependable water supply to the city.

Prior to the work, the water treatment plant operated well below capacity, providing only 33 percent of the potable water needed for the region. As a result, many residents relied on untreated well water which led to outbreaks of dangerous water-borne diseases like typhoid and cholera.

This project's goal was to restore and expand the water and sewage treatment plants serving the region. The sewage treatment plant was operational but required repair of its equipment and the addition of a new settlement tank in order to run properly. The water treatment plant expansion included the installation of three new compact units, each capable of producing 1.27 million gallons per day, will increase total capacity by 3.8 million gallons per day.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Developed WTO Accession Roadmap in cooperation with Iraqi officials.
- Provided technical assistance as well as information on contracting opportunities for Iraqi businesses and entrepreneurs through business centers.
- Worked with the Ministry of Finance to introduce the new Iraqi dinar.
- Created more than 77,000 public works jobs through the National Employment Program.
- Provided technical assistance on accounting, budgeting and lending activities at Iraq's commercial banks. Trained 116 bankers from the Rafidain and Rasheed banks in six training courses.
- Assisted in management of \$21 million micro-credit program.
- Improved statistical analysis, monetary policymaking, and bank supervision procedures at Iraq's Central Bank; offered a two-week banking course to Central Bank staff with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.
- Evaluated and updated commercial laws on private sector and foreign investment.
- Assisted in developing the five percent reconstruction levy on imports; built capacity of customs officials to implement levy.
- Developed a government-wide IT strategy to support the automation of planning, budgeting and reporting processes across ministries.
- Provided technical support for the re-opening of the Iraq Stock Exchange after it was closed down for more than 15 months; 3.6 billion Iraqi dinars (\$2.4 million USD) in shares were traded in the first day.

USAID supports sustainable economic reforms in Iraq including examining and reforming laws, regulations, and institutions and providing a framework for private sector trade, commerce, and investment. The reforms will strengthen the Central Bank and the Ministries of Finance, Trade, Commerce and Industry—among others.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

A recent Executive Order by Iraq's Prime Minister established a Legislative Committee on Privatization, mandating it to prepare a draft privatization law. To assist the Government of Iraq, the privatization component of USAID's Private Sector Development (PSD) program is supporting the development of "best practices" privatization legislation. By having a sound privatization law in place, Iraq will be better able to provide clear legal authority for its privatization program and an eventual implementing privatization agency.

More than 60 bankers and members of Iraqi business associations took part in a workshop in Baghdad to discuss mutual needs for changing traditional bank lending methods. The workshop was organized and led by PSD program staff and was designed to be a forum where each group learned of the other's needs regarding the challenges of obtaining business loans and meeting restrictive lending procedures. The workshop also served to educate businesspeople on the types of loan assistance available and generate demand for loans that utilize new credit procedures which are being implemented by the project's partner private banks.

Until recently, private banks in Iraq loaned money only to businesses which could put up property as collateral. By implementing cash flow-based lending procedures, private banks will be able to enlarge their pool of potential clients, which will strengthen the private sector and create jobs. By learning about the new process for obtaining private bank loans, local businesspeople will be able to access credit, expand their businesses, and generate sustainable employment growth.

PSD program staff recently met with six members of Iraq's Legislative Committee on Privatization to discuss privatization experiences in other countries that might have relevance for Iraq and ways of moving forward in order to strengthen the private sector. As a result of the meeting, PSD project staff will continue to provide the Legislative Committee with support in developing model legislation that can serve as the basis of privatization in Iraq. The legislation will provide a legal framework for the privatization of State Owned Enterprises and define a process to transfer ownership of certain enterprises from the public sector to the private sector, which typically is better able to grow the businesses and create sustainable jobs.

USAID's Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA) recently supported training events for Iraqi small- and medium-sized enterprises and approved 14 small business grants. These activities are part of VEGA's continuing efforts to support the development of a competitive and efficient private sector through training, technical assistance, consulting, and business entrepreneurship services. Recent training activities included sessions for 31 small businesses in the non-permissible areas of Baghdad, Mosul, and Kirkuk; , and trainings for 13 consultants in Baghdad who will provide business planning services to Iraqi companies for the purpose of accessing credit under the Iraqi Middle Market Development Fund (IMMDF) and other credit programs.

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

As part of efforts to improve the hydraulic infrastructure in rural areas, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and USAID's Agriculture Reconstruction and Development for Iraq (ARDI) program are set to begin repairs of some discharge regulators – devices that help to limit and direct the flow of water through irrigation canals.

Improving the hydraulic system in Iraq is central to the MOA/ARDI mission of increasing agricultural production throughout the country. In the center and south of Iraq, agriculture relies heavily on irrigation. But unfortunately most canals, drainage, and hydraulic structures have not been properly maintained or replaced since they were installed in the 1980s.

As part of a new project recently approved by USAID, MOA/ARDI will commence repairs on a discharge regulator that provides water to 10,000 donums (2,500 hectares) of land in central Iraq's Qadissiyah Governorate. The increased ability to control water amounts will positively affect the livelihoods of 1,050 farm families who rely on the agricultural production from the adjacent land as their major source of income. In total, over 7,000 Iraqis will benefit.

Under the terms of the grant, MOA/ARDI will provide for the purchase of the mechanical and electrical parts, as well as the civil works necessary for proper installation. Through training, the Ministry of Water Resources is also being equipped to better maintain this discharge regulator and other components of the hydraulic infrastructure.



MOA/ARDI is repairing a water discharge regulator that will benefit over 7,000 Iraqis who live on the surrounding farmland.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen the capacity of the legislative branch of the Iraqi interim and transitional governments and its staff during the interim and transition period to include lawmaking, representation, executive oversight, and other responsibilities as provided by the Transitional Administrative Law.
- Assist the Executive Authority, the Presidency Council, and the Council of Ministers and its presiding Prime Minister to develop governing processes, rules of procedure, regulations and directives necessary to enforce the laws, and to implement government programs and policies
- Support the process for adoption of an Iraqi constitution that promotes democratic principles and values through the provision of technical assistance that includes, but is not limited to, providing comparative constitutional expertise; organizing constitutional conferences and conventions; facilitating public awareness, education, and participation; and assisting in the conduct of a national referendum or other ratifying mechanism.

In the post-election period, USAID will continue to plan and implement a variety of programs, undertaken in full partnership with Iraqi counterparts, matching the needs of the evolving Iraqi democracy. In particular, USAID is accelerating support to the Iraq National Assembly and the Constitutional Drafting Commission.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

USAID's partner providing support to the constitutional development process is in the final preparatory stages of the Constitutional Dialogue Program which began in mid-June and is designed to facilitate constituent involvement in the constitutional process. The program will focus on civic education and encourage public input in the drafting process. It is expected to involve the participation of some 200 to 300 trainers, up to 150 NGOs, and 200,000 Iraqis nationwide.

USAID's partner is currently working closely with four master trainers assigned throughout the country. On May 27 and 28, the implementing partner provided the master trainers with a work plan and educational material to be used in communicating the basics of the constitutional process. The master trainers will recruit 10 to 15 local NGOs, each of which will in turn provide two additional facilitators. During the second phase of the program, each facilitator will coordinate and implement constitutional dialogue meetings with up to 20 people. These dialogues will help educate participants about the constitutional process and solicit feedback.

The Iraqi women's caucus recently met with USAID to discuss ways to ensure that Iraqi organizations and institutions are legally protected regardless of gender, ethnicity and religion. An Islamic scholar was in attendance to explore constitutional issues viewed in the context of Islamic law. USAID will also provide access to constitutional experts. The women's caucus now has a draft statement to take to their parties and will be using the tools gained during advocacy trainings to work internally to encourage their parties to agree to the concepts they have been discussing.

Twelve Members of the Iraqi National Assembly (INA) attended a workshop on the Rules of Procedure in the American legislative process. Follow-up workshops helped INA members understand the relationship between a legislator and an executive branch and practical ways to ensure government accountability. The follow-up workshops included training for United Iraqi Alliance coalition members on legislative-executive relations, training for INA members on enforcing executive accountability and overseeing the executive's activities to ensure that decisions are in the citizen's interest, and a session on including public input into policy making, legislation and the constitutional process.

Three important Iraqi women's organizations are planning a series of workshops aimed at educating women on the constitutional process and providing a mechanism for their input into the content of the constitution. Representatives from the three organizations met to discuss work plans and coordination methods. They also received an intensive half-day of training on financial record-keeping and reporting. Together these local partners will conduct workshops focused on constitutional education, awareness, and women's advocacy in 13 cities throughout Iraq.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- More than \$2.5 million was committed to the nationwide Civic Education Campaign, which educated Iraqis on democracy and political transition in Iraq. Over 550 democratic dialogue facilitators were recruited to help Iraqis participate in political processes. More than 29,000 local democracy dialogues events were conducted by Election Day, in which well over 789,700 Iraqis participated.
- Established regional offices in Al Basrah, Al Hillah, Baghdad, and Erbil, with resident expat and Iraqi professional staff operating in all 18 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 \$1.5 million has been implemented.
- Facilitated the establishment or refreshment of 16 governorate councils, 90 district councils, 194 city or sub-district councils, and 445 neighborhood councils.
- Supported preparation of 2004 and 2005 budgets in Baghdad, Mosul, Hillah, Babil, and Najaf.
- Organized and carried out numerous selection processes for governors and mayors, as well as local council elections, throughout Iraq.
- Supported a series of National Agenda Dialogue Conferences, which engaged stakeholders such as academics, journalists, women, lawyers, health professionals, tribal leaders, the disabled and civil society organizations in discussions on their roles in Iraq's developing 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

On June 7th, the Local Governance Program (LGP) team in Baghdad delivered two training programs to 24 members of the Baghdad Provincial Council on the *Roles of Committees and Local Government in Baghdad during the Transitional Period*. The following issues were discussed during this training session:

Roles of Committees

- Committee structure
- Subcommittees
- Tasks of committees
- Models of world experiments
- Rules of conduct

Local Governments in Baghdad during the Transitional Period

- Baghdad after 9/4/2003
- New Iraqi Government Formation
- The beginning of the Local Government Program
- Baghdad city councils system design
- The concept of caucuses
- Information and technical support

The LGP recently conducted workshops for Basrah governorate district councils. The training module topics included *Sources of Authority, Council Procedures and Functions, Code of Conduct and Work Methods and Citizen Participation*. A total of 76 district council members from Maysan, Dhi Qar, Al Muthana and Basrah governorates participated in the program. Participants included eight women members of the Basrah Governorate Council. Council members in Samawah City received an additional training session on fiscal authority.

LGP staff are working with the Basrah Governorate Council—including the Council's chairman—to plan a federalism/decentralization workshop. Using example states of Spain, Mexico, and India, LGP intends to present key characteristics of federalism, government structures, constitutional division of powers, fiscal arrangements, and special features of federalism. The workshop is planned to be held at a USAID resource center in southern Iraq. Senior Basrah University professors and distinguished council members will also participate in the workshop.

Decentralizing responsibilities from the central to the local government enhances political participation, strengthens local services and provides greater flexibility and autonomy of decision making at the local level.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- USAID has committed over \$131 million to 3,120 projects while Iraqi communities have committed more than 25% of total funding. CAP has established over 600 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 433 projects with over \$29 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 322 projects and have over \$21.5 million in project commitments.
- Income generation is an important emphasis in the Baghdad program where 522 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 \$22.3 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 625 projects with total commitments of \$21.9 million. Projects have focused on immediate community needs such as sewage clean up, water treatment and distribution, public health, and girls' access to education.

The Community Action Program works in rural and urban communities to promote democracy and prevent and mitigate conflict. Working directly through partner NGOs and in consultation with local government representatives, USAID is creating representative participatory community groups to identify critical priorities and implement programs to address those needs.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

USAID's Community Action Program (CAP) partner working in As Sulaymaniyah conducted a ten day workshop for people with disabilities. The training covered two key areas: training of trainers, and advocacy and fundraising for associations of disabled people. Participants included representatives of the disabled community and staff from the CAP partner in the region.



An Iraqi man learns about fundraising and advocacy for persons with disabilities during a ten day workshop designed to strengthen the role of disabled members of a community.

Participants returned to their governorates planning to conduct presentations that would promote the rights of the disabled and demonstrate techniques to include persons with disabilities in the community. These presentations will raise awareness among community leaders and members about the issues disabled people in their community face. Commenting on the benefits of the training, one participant said, "The end of the ten-day training marks the beginning of a lifelong journey."

This training was the second in a series designed to promote the rights of disabled persons and build advocacy capacity among their associations. The first training took place in November 2004, and introduced trainees to international human rights standards and principles regarding persons with disabilities.

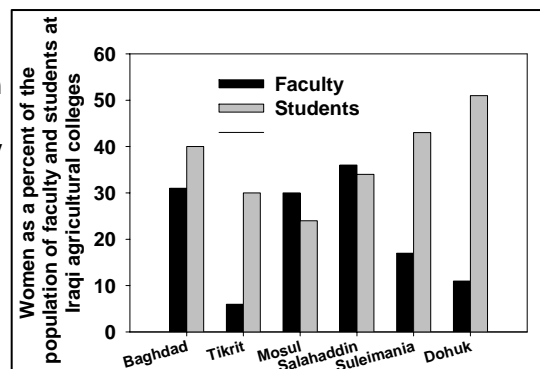
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- 2,510 schools have been rehabilitated through direct contracting and grants to communities.
- Hundreds of thousands of desks, chairs, cabinets, chalkboards, and kits for primary and secondary schools have been distributed countrywide.
- 32,700 secondary school teachers and administrators, including 928 master trainers, have been trained nationwide. Over the next year, up to 100,000 additional teachers will receive in-service training.
- Eighty-four primary and secondary schools (four in each governorate) are being established to serve as “centers of excellence.” Teachers will receive six weeks of training, and schools will be equipped with computer and science laboratories.
- More than 550 out-of-school youth completed a pilot accelerated learning program. An expanded program, targeting 10,000 out-of-school youth, will be implemented during the 2005–06 school year.
- Satellite Internet access and computers installed at the Ministry of Education and in all 21 Directorates of Education. To improve resource management, an Education Management Information System is being developed.
- More than 8.7 million math and science textbooks have been edited, printed, and distributed throughout Iraq.
- Partnerships have been established between five American and ten Iraqi universities. Through these partnerships, more than 1,500 Iraqi faculty and students have participated in workshops, trainings, conferences, and courses in Iraq, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States.
- University facilities, such as libraries, computer and science laboratories, lecture halls, and buildings, have been rehabilitated at colleges of law, engineering, medicine, archeology, and agriculture. In addition, books and electronic resources have been provided to university libraries.

USAID’s goals are to increase enrollment, improve primary and secondary education, ensure classrooms have sufficient supplies, facilitate community involvement, train teachers, implement accelerated learning programs, and establish partnerships between U.S. and Iraqi colleges and universities.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

The University of Hawaii (UH)—on behalf of USAID’s Higher Education and Development (HEAD) program—collected information in May on the gender demographics of faculty and staff at the agricultural colleges of several Iraqi universities. Results showed that women comprised 7-35% of the faculty and 25-52% of the students of responding colleges; female enrollment was highest among undergraduate students. Many women end their academic careers after obtaining their Bachelor’s degree, and generally less than 10% of women faculty at Iraqi agricultural colleges have obtained their Doctorate degree, thereby impeding their upward mobility into administrative and leadership positions.



The five Iraqi students that are currently studying at UH under the HEAD program made rapid progress in May. All five completed their Spring semester courses and one had the noteworthy distinction of receiving the highest final score in his Plant Propagation class. Another of the students initiated an agriculture experiment in May on tomatoes with a UH faculty member. Two other Iraqi students reviewed corn breeding program and production practices at commercial seed production centers. All of the Iraqi students attended a College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources biotechnology forum on new molecular techniques and on public concerns regarding genetically modified organisms.

At the State University of New York at Stony Brook, four Iraqi archaeology students who are studying abroad with the support of the HEAD program have completed their first full semester work in the graduate archaeology department. All had passing grades ranging from B- to A. The four students have now left for their summer field programs. Two are excavating an ancestral Hopi village in Arizona; the others are working on Pueblo dig in Colorado.

Two additional Environmental Health Education Resource Centers will be established at two universities in Iraq—one in the Arbil region and one near Hilla. The universities have already allocated space for laboratories and libraries for the Centers and will support the necessary electrical and plumbing work for the facilities. Center Coordinators and Directors have been identified from among university faculty and equipment will soon be sent to the new centers. Medical doctors who attended training courses in Amman in February will begin to organize local training courses at the centers for doctors and students in their regions.

A primary focus of USAID’s Basic Education program is to assist the Ministry of Education (MOE) in improving the quality, equity and efficiency of the education sector through planning education reform, conducting needs assessments and recruiting Iraqi professionals. The current focus is on training programs for senior and mid-level MOE managers. Training topics have included education policy analysis; strategic planning; statistical sampling and analysis; education planning; assessment and evaluation methods, budget preparation/execution, resource allocation models, and using IT in financial management.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Awarded 3,815 small grants totaling \$279.7 million for quick impact activities that support good governance, civil society, conflict management and mitigation, human rights and transitional justice.
- Funded 111 grants totaling over \$4.23 million that focus on women's issues, including supporting the establishment of 24 women's centers in Iraq. Rehabilitated over 264 Iraqi national ministries, schools, clinics and other municipal buildings. Supporting 65 Iraqi groups in documenting human rights abuses of the Ba'athist regime and promoting peace, tolerance, and reconciliation.
- Met critical needs during and immediately after the conflict by providing short-term employment, restoring basic government and community services, increasing Iraqi access to information and communication and encouraging protection of human rights.

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) supports the transition to a participatory, stable, and democratic country. OTI provides quick-dispensing, high-impact grants meeting critical needs—providing short-term employment, restoring basic government and community services, increasing access to information and communication, and encouraging protection of human rights.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

The sewage department of a city in central Iraq rehabilitated eight sewage pumping stations through a series of Iraq Transition Initiative (ITI) grants. Ten pumping stations were damaged during recent intense fighting in the city and were in need of repairs to allow the wastewater removal system to function properly. Many areas of the city are suffering from sewage overflows on the streets as a result, which increases residents' risk for water-borne diseases. By supporting the pumping station rehabilitation, USAID has enabled the sewage department to operate more effectively and to remove wastewater from residential areas of the city. This assistance is part of a larger effort to restore essential infrastructure in the city as residents who left during the fighting return, increasing confidence in local government and helping with the transition to normalcy.

The Department of Electricity in a city in central Iraq received furniture and equipment for their offices with the help of an ITI grant. This government office sustained damage during intense fighting in the city and was unable to reopen due to the need for repairs and a lack of furniture and equipment. The department is now working out of an alternate site until a long-term solution is found but was in immediate need of equipment and furniture to adequately conduct their duties and maintain proper archives of their operations. By appropriately equipping this office, USAID has enabled the Department of Electricity to resume operations and assist with efforts to restore essential infrastructure in the city. This grant has also increased confidence among residents in the transition to a democratic Iraq as residents see the enhanced capacity of their local government.

An agricultural directorate in northern Iraq received equipment and furniture with the help of an ITI grant. As a result of intense fighting during the Iran-Iraq war and later between opposing Kurdish parties, this particular area suffered extensive damage and has limited basic services. The Agricultural Directorate is responsible for providing basic agricultural services including providing seeds and fertilizer to 200 villages. Through this assistance, USAID has improved the productive capacity of thousands of farmers in the area by enabling the directorate to respond to their needs, thereby raising the standard of living and increasing confidence and trust in local government.

A culture and youth activity center in northern Iraq augmented their outreach programs by receiving equipment, furniture and computers through the support of an ITI grant. This center, located in a rural area in northern Iraq, improves the lives of local youth through social and cultural activities. Through this assistance, USAID has enabled the center to provide more activities and courses that offer practical training in areas such as computers, music, and cultural diversity, helping youth to become more active, positive participants in Iraqi society.

Since the cessation of the 2003 conflict, USAID has completed their planned work at Umm Qasr Seaport, restored significant portions of Iraq's telecommunications network, rebuilt three major bridges and restored the rail line connecting Umm Qasr with Basra city and points north. USAID also helped avert a humanitarian crisis during the conflict by providing assistance to the United Nations' World Food Program. USAID advisors continue to assist with the management and distribution of food rations for all Iraqi citizens.

SEAPORTS

- The \$45 million program to rehabilitate and improve management at Umm Qasr seaport was completed in June 2004.
- Port reopened to commercial traffic on June 17, 2003; completed first passenger vessel test July 16.
- Up to 50 ships offload at the port every month.
- Completed dredging to open all 21 berths to deep-draft ships; maintenance dredging is ongoing.
- Applied port tariffs on June 20, 2003.
- Renovated the grain-receiving facility to process 600 MT of grain an hour.
- Renovated the administration building, passenger terminal, customs hall, and electrical substations.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- Audited more than 1,200 km of the fiber optic backbone network and performed emergency repairs, reconnecting 20 cities and 70% of the population.
- Reconstituted Baghdad area phone service by installing switches with 240,000 lines at 12 sites.
- Installed and fully integrated 13 new switches with 14 existing switches.
- Worked with the Ministry of Communications to reactivate more than 215,000 subscriber lines.
- Installed a satellite gateway system at Baghdad's largest telecom exchange and restored international service.
- Trained telecom engineers and technicians in the operation and maintenance of the satellite gateway system and the new switches.

BRIDGES AND ROADS

- Rebuilt three major bridges—Khazir, Tikrit and Al Mat bridges—critical for the movement of people and commercial products throughout the country.
- Rebuilt a substantial portion of the Iraqi Republican Railway line connecting Basrah with the port of Umm Qasr including physical track construction, installing culverts, and repairing gatehouses. The remainder of the work has been handed over to the Ministry of Transportation. This work facilitates the shipment of bulk cargo from the port to Baghdad and throughout the country.

FOOD SECURITY

- Worked directly with the World Food Program (WFP) and Coalition Forces to re-establish the Public Distribution System (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.
- 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

June 30, 2005

FY 2003-2005*			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
Reconstruction USAID/ANE			Subtotal: 4,090,878,068
Abt Associates	Health	Countrywide	\$23,031,886
AFCAP	Logistics	Countrywide	\$91,500,000
America's Development Foundation	Civil Society	Countrywide	\$42,880,157
Army Corps of Eng.	Architecture and Engineering Services	Countrywide	\$30,842,037
BearingPoint	Economic Governance	Countrywide	\$79,583,885
BearingPoint	Economic Governance II	Countrywide	\$103,500,000
Bechtel	Airports, buildings, power, railroads, roads, bridges, port, water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$1,029,833,259
Bechtel	Infrastructure II: Airports, buildings, emergency communications, power, railroads, roads and bridges, Umm Qasr seaport, water and sanitation, Basra Hospital	Countrywide	\$1,386,809,782
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	\$49,275,000
CEPPS	Elections Administration Support	Countrywide	\$40,000,000
Community Action Program	Development in impoverished communities	Countrywide	\$258,820,000
DAI	Marshlands	South	\$4,000,000
DAI	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$101,352,912
Fed Source	Personnel Support	Countrywide	\$300,000
IRG	Reconstruction Support	Countrywide	\$52,171,260
Logenix	Health	North/Central	\$108,506
Louis Berger	Vocational Education	Countrywide	\$75,016,115
Louis Berger	Private Sector Development II	Countrywide	\$95,000,000
MSI	Monitoring and Evaluation	Countrywide	\$5,284,781
Partnership for Child Healthcare	Health	Countrywide	\$2,000,000

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

June 30, 2005

FY 2003-2004			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
RTI	Local Governance	Countrywide	\$241,910,757
RTI	Local Governance II	Countrywide	\$70,000,000
RTI	Health Training	Countrywide	15,000,000
SkyLink	Airport Management	Bag., Bas., Mos.	\$27,200,000
SSA	Port Management	Umm Qasr	\$14,318,985
UNDP	Trust Fund Contribution	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
UNESCO	Textbook Printing & Distribution: Math & Science	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$36,700,000
UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$19,600,000
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
VEGA	Business Skills Training	Countrywide	\$12,089,702
VFH	Elections Support	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
WHO	Strengthen Health System	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$1,273,894
World Bank	Trust Fund Contribution	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
Yankee Group	Telecoms Planning	Countrywide	\$58,150
Emergency Relief USAID/DCHA/OFDA.....			Subtotal: \$180,657,106
ACTED	Water and sanitation, health/hygiene, education	Eastern Iraq	\$2,995,793
Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$8,034,839
AirServ	Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,309,876
ARC	Capacity Building	Al Basrah	\$537,746
CARE	IDP Assistance, Quick-impact projects, Water and Sanitation, Health, Emergency Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$9,043,148
The Cuny Center	Research Studies	Countrywide	\$40,260
GOAL	Coordination, Nutrition	Al Muthanna	\$1,507,900
InterAction	Coordination	Kuwait City	\$92,860
IDA	Health	Countrywide	\$1,318,437

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

June 30, 2005

FY 2003-2004			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
IMC	Health, IDP Assistance, Food Security, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, Capacity Building	Countrywide	\$34,832,887
IOM	IDP Assistance	Countrywide	\$18,392,470
IRC	IDP Assistance, Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$8,000,411
IRD	IDP Assistance, Health, Water and Sanitation	Northern Iraq	\$17,076,190
Logistics	Emergency Relief Commodities and USAID/DART Support	Countrywide	\$22,771,653
Mercy Corps	IDP Assistance, Health, Emergency Relief Commodities, Shelter, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$25,251,114
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: \$382,283,322
Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$10,325,866
IOM	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$6,462,167
DAI	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$354,500,376
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.....			\$5,079,389,496

* 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.