



# RECONSTRUCTION WEEKLY UPDATE

March 10, 2005



Martial arts event during the inauguration ceremony of a new gym renovated with USAID assistance.

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USAID assists Iraqis in reconstructing their country by working with Iraq’s Interim Government. Programs are implemented in coordination with the United Nations, country partners, nongovernmental organizations and private sector partners.

This report highlights USAID’s overall accomplishments and recent reconstruction efforts in Iraq. For more information, please visit [www.usaid.gov/iraq](http://www.usaid.gov/iraq).

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- By October, 2003, rehabilitated electric power capacity to produce peak capacity greater than the pre-war level of 4,400 MW. Production reached 5,365 MW on August 18, 2004.
- Since achieving record power production in Summer '04, the Ministry of Electricity—with assistance from USAID—has begun the standard Fall maintenance process which will necessarily reduce the amount of power available for consumption. USAID worked with the MOE to conduct last Fall's maintenance program.
- Repairing thermal units, replacing turbines, rehabilitating the power distribution network, and installing and restoring generators.
- USAID has added 600 MW of capacity through maintenance and rehabilitation work, and also repaired a 400 KV transmission line.
- USAID and the Ministry of Electricity are working with partners to add a total of more than 792 MW to the national grid by December 2005 through maintenance, rehabilitation, and new generation projects.
- USAID completed a project to convert two units that produce 80 MW each to operate on crude/heavy fuel oil instead of diesel which is in short supply.
- 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 of 2003 to restore the capacity of Iraq's power system.

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

**Work is nearly complete on the restoration of Baghdad International Airport Electrical Substation #1 which controls airstrip lighting on the commercial side of the airport.** The power facility was bombed and badly damaged during the war. Switchgear and constant-current regulators were damaged beyond repair. Although the building that houses the substation remains intact the old 500 kVA emergency diesel generator that provides standby power must be removed and replaced.



*Delivery of the substation transformer and 11kV switchgear panels*

The scope of work for this project calls for the procurement and installation of new electrical components for the substation including constant-current regulators, an emergency diesel generator, 11 kV circuit breakers, a 400V distribution system, an 11kV-to- 400V transformer, and 11kV bus and auxiliary equipment as required. Also incorporated into the project are general improvements to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system; the enclosure building as required, and the installation of a carbon dioxide-based fire suppression system. Existing cables for power and controls from the substation to runway lighting fixtures are in place and will be reused. This project is expected to be completed by mid-March 2005.

**The LGP is working with Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) army groups from Poland and El Salvador to prepare them to better administer infrastructure development projects in South Central Iraq.**

South Central's LGP specialists are meeting with Basrah governorate officials to prepare over 30 projects for proposal to the Polish Multinational Division's CIMIC. The LGP council trainer met with 10 Basrah council leaders to identify projects to propose to CIMIC. The Polish CIMIC has significant funds and the will to invest in the governorate but has few engineers on staff. LGP has many engineers but no money to fund infrastructure projects so bringing the two together for short, defined purposes is beneficial for both organizations.

Specialists also recently completed the construction of a database of contractors who have worked with LGP for the benefit of the newly rotated El Salvadoran Battalion's CIMIC unit which is now responsible for infrastructure projects in southern Babil governorate. The Salvadoran CIMIC can save time and money by working with proven contractors and tested Iraqi businesses.

LGP engineers regularly cooperate with other coalition engineering programs such as the U.S. Army's Corps of Engineers, the Project Coordination Office, U.S. Army and Marine Corps Civil-Military units, and the Multinational Force's Civil-Military Affairs units. LGP engineers can help with project identification and design, estimation of bills of quantity, and project supervision.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- **Nationwide:** Repaired various sewage lift stations and water treatment units.
- **Baghdad:** Expanding and rehabilitating one water treatment plant and constructing another to increase capacity by approximately 120 million gallons per day; rehabilitating sewage treatment plants.
  - A major wastewater treatment plant in Baghdad began operating in June of 2004; this is the first major sewage plant in the country to operate in over 12 years.
  - The sewage treatment system in Baghdad, barely functioning for years before the conflict, will be restored to almost 100-percent capacity, serving 80 percent of Baghdad's population.
  - Standby generators are being installed at 41 Baghdad water facilities.
- **South:** Rehabilitated parts of the Sweet Water Canal system, including repairing breaches, cleaning the main reservoir, and refurbished 14 water treatment plants around Basrah serving 1.75 million people.
- **South Central:** Rehabilitating two water plants and four sewage plants.
  - Completed the rehabilitation of a sewage plant in Babil Governorate.
  - Sewage plants in An Najaf, Al Qadisiyah, Karbala, and Babil Governorates will serve 440,000 upon completion.
  - Water treatment in Najaf and Babil will serve residents and visitors at Iraq's holiest shrines.
- **North:** Completed rehabilitation of Kirkuk water plant and continuing refurbishment of sewage plant near Mosul.

*USAID's goal is to improve the efficiency and reliability of existing water and wastewater treatment facilities, especially those in the south where water quantity and quality are particularly low. An anticipated 11.8 million Iraqis will benefit from USAID's \$600 million in water and sanitation projects.*

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

**Work is in progress at 48 sites on USAID's rural water initiative, which extends water for drinking and irrigation to mid-sized communities that had previously lacked reliable sources.** Contracts have been awarded for reverse osmosis units and water treatment plants and USAID is considering a proposal to add a hygiene training program to the original work plan. Site investigations for unit installation are being conducted in Wasit, Karbala, Dahuk, Tamim, and Kirkuk, and the security situation is being monitored in areas that are not currently accessible. The initiative will install 110 units in remote locations throughout Iraq, filling the gap in water service for approximately four million rural Iraqis who live in regions where water is either scarce or of poor quality.

**USAID's work to improve sewer lines in a northern suburb of Baghdad is about 44% complete.** The project will clean, repair, replace, and expand sewer lines and equipment to improve performance. Unfortunately, additional line collapses are impacting downstream pump stations. To address this recent development, a scope of work amendment is being prepared to repair the collapses. The estimated construction cost of this project is \$1.8 million and the work is expected to be finished by June, 2005.

**The Municipal Solid Waste Group of USAID's Local Governance Program (LGP) Baghdad team recently provided a six day training session on Municipal Waste and Landfill Management** for senior Baghdad Mayorality officials responsible for the management of municipal solid waste. The program addressed issues in management, operations, environmental considerations, and cost effective and environmentally sound operations. Twenty-nine solid waste professional staff from the Mayorality participated.

**In mid-February, specialists from LGP's Baghdad team met for the first time with the new Director General of the Sewage Department and the new Deputy Director General of the Water Department. The officials discussed plans for reorganizing the operations of the water and sewage departments,** moves that are being considered in response to a consolidation study performed by LGP last year. If implemented, the Sewage Department would be divided geographically in two sections with each site headed by a Director General reporting to the Deputy Mayor for Technical Affairs. The Water Department would also be divided along administrative lines into production and distribution divisions.

**The Baghdad LGP team completed a two-day computer training session in February for 10 members of the finance staff from the Baghdad Water and Sewage Departments.** The training focused on Microsoft Word and Excel spreadsheets and will form the basis for future training in finance, budgeting, revenue, and expenses.

**The Community Action Program (CAP) is facilitating the overhaul of a rural village water system in Ninawa Governorate.** The village was destroyed in 1988 and more than 100 families were displaced. They are now returning to a village that lacks essential infrastructure. USAID's CAP implementing partner in the north is supplying one kilometer of pipes and the expertise needed to help the community to connect them. The local water department is also supplying one kilometer of pipes. Establishing a new water pipeline will make daily life immeasurably easier. The project cost is \$11,000 with \$4,750 in local contribution.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

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

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

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

**USAID's program advisors work with the Central Bank of Iraq (CBI) to improve its ability to conduct macroeconomic policy and supervise banking within the country.** Recent activities in support of this objective have included:

*Bank Supervision.* Eight representatives of the CBI Bank Supervision Department are receiving training in accounting and financial reporting standards. IEG II advisors also developed a course in credit analysis that will include representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the Central Bank of Jordan, Banc du Libon, and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

*Government Securities.* The CBI, with IEG II support, is taking the first step toward the development of a secondary debt market by recapitalizing its negotiable treasury bills.

*Macroeconomic Policy.* Advisors finalized a briefing for the CBI Board of Directors on the status and composition of Gross Domestic Product for the final two months of 2004.

*Inter-bank Payments.* IEG II staff working with the U.S. Department of Treasury developed a position paper on the infrastructure necessary to support a fully functional inter-bank payment system. Contractors working for the Department of Treasury will implement the inter-bank payment system.

**USAID's Iraq Economic Governance II (IEG II) program is continuing to work with Iraqi government counterparts to build their capacity to implement tax and customs reform.** Recent activities in support of this objective have included:

*Customs reform.* Six customs officials completed training in Jordan on the operation of a new automated Reconstruction Levy system. The levy is a 5% tariff on nearly all imports, helping to finance Iraqi government reconstruction efforts.

*Financial Management Information System.* IEG II recently completed an orientation and computer skills training course in Amman, Jordan for 18 officials from various governorates and ministries that will be using a new Financial Management Information System.

*Tax administration.* IEG II advisors are assisting the Iraqi Tax Commission (ITC) in creating new tax forms. Advisors recently completed a final draft of an up-graded tax return form and a draft guide for the income tax return. Both the guide and the return form are now being translated into Arabic.

**The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) is working with USAID's Vocational Training and Employment Services (VTES) program to improve vocational training and employment services in Iraq.** Under this program, VTES will build the capacity of MOLSA to operate a network of training and employment centers. Although the centers already exist, the services they provide do not currently meet these needs. The training centers will develop vocational training in the job skills most needed in Iraq today, such as wood working, metal working, English language, and other skills. Employment centers will help connect Iraqi workers with companies that are hiring, and help ensure that MOLSA is aware of the current needs of the private sector.

## 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

**Since December 13, 2004, more than 200 men and women in five villages in Ninawa' governorate have been working to clear their farm fields of stones through a grant provided by USAID's Agricultural Reconstruction and Development for Iraq (ARDI) program.** More than 500 dunums (approximately 125 hectares) have already been cleared. Work resumed last week after a short break due to inclement weather. Stone clearing is a fundamental step toward restoring their agricultural land to production. The stone-clearing projects have positively impacted the lives of more than 1,500 residents in seven villages, either directly through employment as laborers or indirectly through increased agricultural production.

**Last week, ARDI program advisors visited As Sulaymaniyah to meet with the Director General (DG) of Irrigation and Dams to consult on planned activities including the proposed rehabilitation of 25 karezes throughout As Sulaymaniyah.** After careful analysis, the karezes rehabilitation is one of several projects that ARDI will consider funding. A kareze is an ancient system which taps groundwater and brings it to the surface without pumping for potential use in irrigation.

ARDI accompanied provincial engineers and Army Civil Affairs personnel on a visit to an As Sulaymaniyah village to meet village leaders, who conducted a tour to the two karezes that currently supply the village's potable water. The group also visited a third kareze which needs to be reconstructed in order to provide water for irrigation. The Ministry will design a system of kareze management, including a holding reservoir and feeder canals. A similar kareze project has already been approved for a village near Halabja.

**USAID's Community Action Program (CAP) helped a group of farmers set up a local beekeeping farmers' cooperative in a multi-ethnic city north-east of Baghdad in Diyala' governorate.** CAP provided the farmers with the bees and the necessary equipment and apparel to begin operation. The farmers were expert in beekeeping but did not have enough funds to start their own business. The coop hopes to produce more than 2000 kg of honey during the first year and 3000 kg of honey during the second year. The total project cost was \$30,995 and the local contribution was \$15,223. Beekeeping is considered by farmers to be an important source of family income.

**In a mostly Sunni Arab town in Diyala' Governorate, CAP is helping 73 local farmers establish a calf fattening cooperative.** In the past, many people in the town have had government jobs, and raised livestock to earn additional income. Villagers have now lost these jobs and are having difficulties making ends meet and providing for their families. CAP will supply 125 calves and one month's supply of livestock feed. The farmers will contribute the land, livestock barns, a generator, an irrigation pump and five months of livestock feed. The coop will generate local jobs, provide families with an income, and produce meat for the local market. The project cost is \$64,150 and the local contribution is \$25,022.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

### • Facilities

- Awarded 627 grants worth more than \$6 million to rehabilitate schools and equip Directorates General.
- Rehabilitated 2,405 schools countrywide.

### • Supplies

- Distributed desks, chairs, cabinets, chalkboards, and kits for primary and secondary schools countrywide.
- Printed and distributed 8.7 million revised math and science textbooks to grades 1-12 by mid-February 2004.

### • Institutional Strengthening

- Completed a major initiative that trained nearly 33,000 secondary school teachers and administrators, including 860 master trainers, nationwide.
- Conducted a pilot accelerated learning program in five Iraqi cities to allow out-of-school children to complete two school years in one year. More than 550 students participated.
- Assisted the Ministry in establishing official baseline education data for Iraq.

### • Higher Education

- Awarded five grants worth \$20.7 million to create partnerships between 10 Iraqi universities and U.S. counterparts in the Higher Education and Development (HEAD) program.
- The HEAD program has provided training opportunities for approximately 1,000 Iraqi faculty and students, awarded more than 75 mini-grants, and supported a dozen graduate students in full-time study.
- HEAD is helping Iraqi universities rebuild and re-equip facilities; send students and professors to international conferences; and reform curricula.

*USAID's goals are to increase enrollment, improve 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

**Two communities in An Najaf governorate participated in workshops to replace rural schools made of mud and reeds with concrete facilities.** About 80 people attended each workshop including representatives from the community and Parent-Teacher Association. Participants pledged a variety of support including donations such as potable water tanks, electrical fixtures, and labor for school construction and evening security.



*An Iraqi mud school*

Initially, the two communities in each Directorate of Education that pledge the greatest level of participation will receive grants, with additional communities receiving grants as funding permits. Local Directorates selected the schools for participation, choosing schools with the highest number of children. While most mud schools are primary schools, some are secondary and some are mixed. The new schools will feature six classrooms and will cost between \$60,000 and \$75,000 each. There are more than 900 mud schools throughout Iraq, each educating about 100-150 students.

**The equipment for a Global Information System / Global Positioning System (GIS/GPS) laboratory and a child nutrition laboratory has arrived in Baghdad and will soon be delivered to Iraqi universities.** The renovation of each laboratory facility is also complete and furnishings have been installed, all with the support of USAID's Higher Education and Development program. Equipping the laboratories is a cooperative effort between five Iraqi universities and a consortium of American universities led by the University of Oklahoma. The consortium strengthens Iraqi university learning environments and administration. Additional labs for animal science, cell biology, veterinary medicine, and soils sciences will be installed in renovated spaces in the coming months.

**A local council in south central Iraq renovated one of the few primary schools serving the area via an Iraq Transition Initiative grant.** The assistance provided new floors, windows, doors and other necessary improvements so the school can offer a safe, student-friendly environment. The project demonstrates to the community that the council can be an agent of positive change while building a strong foundation for participatory, democratic governance at the local level. USAID has completed 2,405 school renovations to date.

**In Arbil Governorate, the Community Action Program is adding four classrooms to a local school to improve access to education for 660 students.** Villages in this area were previously neglected because they were closer to the ethnically-mixed, potentially contentious areas between the southern Sunni Arab provinces and the northern Kurdish provinces. The current eight-room classroom houses a primary school for 400 students, a secondary school for 200 students and a literacy class for 60 students. USAID's partner NGO will help the community expand the school by adding four new classrooms, easing pressure on classroom space and considerably enhancing the level of classroom learning. The project cost is estimated at \$36,525 and the local contribution is \$3,540.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

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

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

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

### **USAID's Community Action Program (CAP) team in Karbala worked with a Community Association to construct a health clinic at the University.**

Several University of Karbala students and faculty members were injured during Coalition Forces attacks on insurgents in the area in December 2003. The University did not have an on-campus health clinic and many of the injured had to be transported to the central hospital of Karbala, delaying medical care. Some patients remain in therapy and must travel



*University of Karbala Health Clinic Construction*

across the city for treatment which is increasingly difficult in the current security environment. The health clinic is now open to the injured students and faculty members as well as to residents of nearby communities, many of whom have also been victims of the military incursions, insurgent attacks and increased criminal activity.

Under CAP, \$10 million has been identified to benefit the individuals and families injured as a result of US military operations in Iraq. The funds have been distributed among the five CAP non-governmental organization implementing partners who are working with Iraqi communities to identify projects which will assist this group.

**Through CAP, a community in At' Tamim governorate is adding an intensive care unit to a local hospital that sees an average of 500 patients a day.** Nearly a quarter million people living in the surrounding farming district rely upon the hospital for medical care. CAP will help the community build the ICU and the hospital and local Health Department will supply the staff and specialized equipment to run the unit. This project will cost \$41,065.

**An association in northern Iraq that supports people with disabilities expanded its computer course offerings by purchasing additional equipment through an Iraq Transition Initiative grant.** The association has over 6,000 members and is staffed by eight employees who serve people with physical, psychological and social disabilities. As there is inadequate assistance from local authorities for the disabled, this grant enabled the association to begin vocational skills training that will empower disabled people to become active participants in Iraqi society.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Awarded more than 2,973 small grants totaling more than \$242.2 million for quick impact activities that support good governance, civil society, conflict management and mitigation, human rights and transitional justice.
- Funded over 60 grants totaling \$3 million that focus on women's issues, including supporting the establishment of 14 women's centers in Iraq. Rehabilitated over 264 Iraqi national ministries, schools, clinics and other municipal buildings. Supporting 65 Iraqi groups in documenting human rights abuses of the Ba'athist regime and promoting peace, tolerance, and reconciliation.
- Met critical needs during and immediately after the conflict by providing short-term employment, restoring basic government and community services, increasing Iraqi access to information and communication and encouraging protection of human rights.

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

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

**An ITI grant helped a northern Iraqi NGO implement a project to improve health and social services to local senior citizens.** Equipment and furniture supplied through the grant allowed the NGO to conduct advocacy training sessions for more than 300 volunteers. Advocacy skills will complement available public services accessible to the elderly through outreach.

A second senior citizens' NGO in northern Iraq purchased furniture, supplies and equipment through an ITI grant, allowing for a more efficient distribution of blankets and clothing to indigent and homeless senior citizens. The NGO operates in a multi-ethnic area with a population of 1.5 million that suffered from a lack of public services and basic infrastructure during the former regime. With a diverse membership of more than 3,000 senior citizens, the NGO provides basic public services to the local senior citizen population.

**A women's NGO in northern Iraq conducted outreach and training activities for women in a local district with the support of an ITI grant.** The grant enabled the NGO's mobile training teams to conduct two-week training sessions in five villages on hygiene awareness, first-aid, women's rights and vocational skills – activities that encourage women to become active participants in the social, political and economic life of their region. The NGO, established in 1995, has 14 staff members and improves the lives of women through confidence building measures such as training and public education.

**A newspaper specializing in women's issues received equipment and covered printing costs for three months through an ITI grant.** The assistance will help the newspaper raise awareness about women's rights, monitor violations of those rights and strengthen freedom of expression. The newspaper published its first edition in September 2003 with 1,500 copies and has since increased circulation to 3,000 in order to meet public demand.

**A journalists' association in southern Iraq organized a conference on anti-terrorism and Islam with the assistance of an ITI grant.** The assistance enabled the association to promote Iraqi voices opposing terrorism and generate a discussion on the incompatibility of Islam and terrorism. The discussions provide a venue for participation in the political life of Iraq as it transitions to a democratic society. Local civil society groups, political parties, tribal leaders, social scientists and government officials took part in the conference.

**A human rights NGO in northern Iraqi purchased essential office equipment and furniture with the help of an ITI grant.** The NGO, established in July 2004, helps citizens in the city obtain redress for a variety of injustices such as the loss of homes, disappeared relatives and wrongful arrests. A second human rights center in south central Iraq was able to renovate a portion of their facility through an ITI grant. This assistance has enabled the center to offer a secure, comfortable learning environment for all groups in the community interested in human rights and the democratic process.



## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Established regional offices in Al Basrah, Al Hillah, Baghdad, and Mosul and operations in all governorates.
- Awarded \$15.5 million in rapid-response grants in the first program year to strengthen the capacity of municipal authorities to deliver core municipal services. The grants were used to restore services in agriculture, education, health, electricity, sanitation, and water.
- Facilitated the establishment and refreshment of 16 governorate councils, 90 district councils, 194 city or sub-district councils, and 445 neighborhood councils.
- Organized and facilitated numerous selection processes for governors and mayors, as well as local council members, throughout Iraq.
- Committed more than \$2.4 million for the nationwide Civic Education Campaign, which educates Iraqis on democracy and Iraq's political situation. More than 28,500 democracy dialogues have been conducted to date.
- Supported preparation of 2004 city council budgets in Baghdad, Mosul, Al Hillah, Babil, and An Najaf.
- Supporting a series of National Agenda Dialogue Conferences, which engage stakeholders such as academics, journalists, women, tribal leaders, and local government officials in discussions on their roles in Iraq's emerging democracy.

*USAID's Local Governance Program (LGP) goals include promoting representative citizen participation in governance; strengthening the management skills of city and provincial administrations and civic institutions; promoting advocacy and participation of civil society organizations; enhancing leadership skills; and serving as a recruiting tool for future leaders.*

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

**Local Governance Program (LGP) staff in Baghdad met with the Mayorality's Director General for Administration and Finance regarding the implementation of the Accounting and Personnel Salary System.** All 9,700 permanent employees at the Mayorality have been registered in the system. Temporary employees will be registered by the end of March 2005. Still, only 6,700 employees have direct deposit activated due to problems at the participating Iraqi Bank. The 2005 Mayorality budget is being distributed on a department level basis, allowing for more efficient calculation of service costs. This is the first time the Mayorality's various departments have received a budget.

**LGP specialists in Southern Iraq recently completed writing Part 1 (Budget and Finance) of a comprehensive financial guide for local councils in Basrah governorate.** The guide will provide the foundation for sound accounting and basic financial practices. Part 1 consists of:

- The definition, objectives, and planning period of an operating budget;
- Authorities assigned to forecast an operating budget;
- Sources of information for forecasting operating budgets;
- Follow-up approval and means of funding;
- Samples of operating budgets.

**The LGP Policy Reform Team (PRT) recently supported a one-day seminar to introduce the concept of Local Government Associations (LGAs) to 19 Kirkuk Governorate officials** including the Deputy Governor and the Governorate Council Chair. PRT began with an overview on LGAs for the attendees, discussing their importance and how they can strengthen Iraqi local government institutions. PRT also presented the LGA Toolkit as a reference guide for officials to use to determine if and how to establish LGAs. Developing LGAs is one of the PRT's key priorities in their work to promote decentralization and provide technical assistance for policy reform implementation.

Eighteen questionnaires were distributed to gauge attendees' level of support for LGAs; all but one agreed they would be useful (17 yes to 1 no). Only one participant voted no, explaining that the current situation is too unstable and that LGAs should be established after the constitution is drafted and a newly elected government is in place.

**Departmental advisors from the LGP team in South Central Iraq are conducting a 20-day contracting workshop for 15 technicians from the Wasit Sewage Directorate.** Last week attendees received training on government contracting of private firms. Classes discussed: announcing bids to the public, bid selection criteria, preparation of bid documents, an overview of bidding (announcements, opening bids and closing), and three classes on contracts (including an overview of contracts, contract structure, and negotiating with contractors). A key LGP objective is to build institutional capacity in local governments to deliver infrastructure services to constituents.

## 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 (TAL)
- 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 matching the needs of the evolving Iraqi democracy, undertaken in full partnership with Iraqi counterparts. In particular USAID is accelerating activities in the national governance support area to ensure comprehensive continued support to the Iraqi democratic transition.*

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

**In anticipation of the Transitional National Assembly's (TNA) inauguration, USAID's implementing partner, the National Democratic Institute (NDI), has been working with Iraqi parliamentary staff in charge of supporting inauguration and orientation activities for the 275 Assembly members.** Following recent training sessions in Baghdad and Amman, NDI continued last week to provide ongoing advice and materials on parliamentary procedures and staffing models and sample organizational charts.

A sub-grantee, the State University of New York, Center for International Development (SUNY/CID), prepared studies on parliamentary rules and procedures and NDI completed the handbook orientation manuals for Members of Parliament. Once translation into Arabic and Kurdish is completed, the manuals will be provided to each member of the Assembly during upcoming NDI orientation seminars. A team of SUNY/CID trainers also came to Baghdad last week to follow up on staff training activities. By the time the TNA is inaugurated, over 80 staff members will have undergone training and participated in the assessment of future technical and skill-development needs.

**Under their contract to support electoral domestic oversight, NDI hosted a series of follow-up meetings in northern Iraq with members of the Iraqi Election Information Network (EIN) to evaluate the performance of their monitors and to conduct a detailed assessment of the overall electoral process in their respective areas.** On February 15, NDI met with nine representatives of six Iraqi non-governmental organizations (NGOs) based in Arbil, As Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk that were actively engaged in monitoring the January 30<sup>th</sup> elections. In the three-hour meeting, these first-hand witnesses of the electoral process shared their impressions and experiences in an effort to improve EIN's methodology, reporting mechanisms and procedures for future elections.

The second objective of the meeting was to discuss monitoring results and produce statements pointing to recurring challenges and observed deficiencies in the electoral process. Statements will be formulated in a series of practical recommendations which will be sent to the Independent Election Commission of Iraq (IECI) to help the Commission improve future electoral processes. It should be noted that the overall evaluation remained positive and that NGO representatives reasserted their eagerness to remain active members of Iraq's election monitoring efforts. NDI staff members will continue to meet with these NGOs to finalize statements, while other meetings will be held with groups based in other regions of the country. NDI's new offices in Basrah and Nasiriyah will facilitate similar and regular follow-up meetings with election monitoring groups based in the South as well.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- USAID has committed over \$129 million to 2,844 projects while Iraqi communities have committed more than 25% of total funding. CAP has established over 670 community action groups (CAGs) in 17 governorates. Five U.S. NGOs each concentrate on a region: north, Baghdad, south-west central, southeast central, and south.
- The northern program focuses on the conflict prone areas of the Sunni Triangle, Mosul, Kirkuk and the Iran-Iraq border. The partner NGO has completed 354 projects with over \$18 million in project commitments including improving the Tikrit water supply, and developing income generation projects in the north.
- In the southwest central region, the partner NGO has established a strong presence in Hillah and the Shi'a holy cities Najaf and Karbala. Emphasis on critical infrastructure needs has improved community water/sanitation services and schools, and repaired vital social infrastructure. They have completed 296 projects and have over \$21.3 million in project commitments.
- Income generation is an important emphasis in the Baghdad program where 495 projects have been completed through CAGs. A marketplace for over 700 vendors is being constructed, and crews are cleaning up medical waste dumps. Total project commitments are \$21.8 million.
- In the southeast central region, 179 projects are complete with a total of \$16.7 million in commitments. In the Shi'i heartland, these projects address needs resulting from decades of government neglect and focus on water, sewerage, community clean-up, and school rehabilitation.
- The southern program has completed 595 projects through 138 CAGs which average 40% women's participation. Projects have focused on immediate community needs such as sewage clean up, water treatment and distribution, public health, and girls' access to education. Total commitments are \$21.2 million.

*The Community Action Program (CAP) works in rural and urban communities 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

**The Community Action Program (CAP) worked with community mobilizers to hold a sports and folklore carnival in rural areas north of Basrah that have been plagued by inter-tribal disputes and conflicts over the last 3-4 months.** It is believed that the conflicts stem from old rivalries over land disputes.

It was proposed that a carnival be held to promote peace and encourage socialization and good relations between different tribes and groups. Young community members took an active role in organizing the carnival. They identified and invited sports teams, musicians, dancers, poets and tribal singers from local communities and worked in close collaboration with community elders in choosing carnival sites and activities. Community members actively participated in the carnival which was held in late December. Most of the participants described it as a new beginning and useful to mitigate further conflicts between tribes. The carnival was also seen as a way of bringing different communities closer.

**Community members in an At' Tamim governorate district are renovating their stadium with CAP assistance.** The district's youth population wanted a better place for recreation and to improve their sports skills. The district's sports club has a second division football team, a first division volleyball team and many individual champions in other sports. More than 40 registered football teams from the town and the surrounding villages use this stadium. USAID's CAP implementing partner will help the community renovate the spectator seats, add a volleyball pitch, an entrance and exit gate, and a reception room. USAID will contribute \$14,260 to the work while the community will contribute \$13,500.

**USAID's CAP implementing partner in a border mountain town in As Sulaymaniah is helping a local community build a retaining wall to prevent rocks from falling onto the road and causing accidents.** Constructing a retaining wall along the road, the main northern trade route with Iran, will prevent accidents and increase road safety, especially in the dangerous winter months. The project cost is \$52,800 and the local contribution is \$16,000.

**A sports complex at a Qadissiyah Teachers' College held an inauguration ceremony for its new gym that was renovated by CAP.** Various stakeholders, community members and Iraqi media attended. As part of the activities, local sports teams were invited to participate in a tournament, organized as part of the community contribution to the project. The program included various sporting events for people of different ages as well as for persons with disabilities. The Community Development Group working at the Teacher's College announced its decision to hold an annual celebration in honor of the occasion. The event was broadly covered by the Iraqi media.



*Martial arts demonstration during the ceremony*

*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 in less than 30 days, avoiding a humanitarian food crisis and providing food security throughout the country.
- With Iraqi food distributors, Food for Peace, the WFP, and Coalition Forces maintained deliveries from June through December 2003 in all 18 governorates.
- Played a key role in an agreement between the WFP, CPA, and the MoT that provided the WFP with the resources and authority to continue to support the PDS through June 2004.
- In partnership with the United States Embassy in Iraq, providing on-going support to the Public Distribution System Working Group to assist the Ministry of Trade with improving PDS management.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

March 10, 2005

FY 2003-2005*			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
<b>Reconstruction USAID/ANE</b>			<b>Subtotal: \$3,870,261,027</b>
Abt Associates	Health	Countrywide	\$23,031,886
AFCAP	Logistics	Countrywide	\$91,500,000
Army Corps of Engineers	Architecture and Engineering Services	Countrywide	\$31,328,264
BearingPoint	Economic Governance	Countrywide	\$79,583,885
BearingPoint	Economic Governance II	Countrywide	\$103,500,000
Louis Berger Group	Vocational Education	Countrywide	\$75,016,115
Louis Berger Group	Private Sector Development II	Countrywide	\$60,000,000
Bechtel National	Airports, buildings, emergency communications, power, railroads, roads and bridges, Umm Qasr seaport, water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$1,029,833,259
Bechtel National	Infrastructure II: Airports, buildings, emergency communications, power, railroads, roads and bridges, Umm Qasr seaport, water and sanitation, Basra Hospital	Countrywide	\$1,386,809,782
Community Action Program	Development in impoverished communities	Countrywide	\$168,820,000
DAI	Marshlands	Dhi Qar Al Basr Maysan	\$4,000,000
DAI	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$101,352,912
Fed Source	Personnel Support	Countrywide	\$300,000
IRG	Reconstruction Support	Countrywide	\$51,698,152
RTI	Local Governance	Countrywide	\$236,911,000
America's Development Foundation	Civil Society	Countrywide	\$42,880,157
CAII	Education	Countrywide	\$56,503,000
CAII	Education II	Countrywide	\$51,809,000
CEPPS	Iraq Governing Council	Countrywide	\$675,000
CEPPS	Transitional Government	Countrywide	\$20,700,000
CEPPS	Voter Education, Domestic Observation and Conflict Resolution	Countrywide	\$47,175,000
CEPPS	Elections Administration Support	Countrywide	\$40,000,000

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

March 10, 2005

FY 2003-2004			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
VFH	Elections Support	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$36,700,000
UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$19,600,000
UNESCO	Textbook Printing & Distribution: Math & Science	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
WHO	Strengthen Health System	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
Logenix	Health	North/Central	\$98,006
SSA	Port Management	Um Qasr	\$14,318,985
SkyLink	Airport Management	Baghdad, Al Basrah, Mosul	\$27,200,000
MSI	Monitoring and Evaluation	Countrywide	\$5,038,772
University Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Research Foundation of the State University of New York/Stony Brook and the Universities of Chicago, Boston and Oxford</li> <li>The Human Rights Institute, DePaul University College of Law and Italy's International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences</li> <li>University of Hawaii, the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, University of Jordan and the American University in Beirut</li> <li>Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, Alcorn State University, Mississippi Valley State University, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Benetech, US-Iraq Business Resources</li> <li>University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Cameron University and Langston University</li> </ul>	Countrywide	\$20,730,000
Yankee Group	Telecoms Planning	Countrywide	\$58,150
VEGA	Business Skills Training	Countrywide	\$12,089,702
UNDP	Trust Fund Contribution	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
World Bank	Trust Fund Contribution	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
<b>Emergency Relief USAID/DCHA/OFDA.....</b>			<b>Subtotal: \$157,594,336</b>
Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$7,975,369
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

March 10, 2005

FY 2003-2004			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
IMC	Health, IDP Assistance, Food Security, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, Capacity Building	Countrywide	\$28,952,898
IOM	IDP Assistance	Countrywide	\$16,392,470
IRC	IDP Assistance, Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$8,000,411
IRD	IDP Assistance, Health, Water and Sanitation	Northern Iraq	\$10,000,000
Logistics	Emergency Relief Commodities and USAID/DART Support	Countrywide	\$22,771,653
Mercy Corps	IDP Assistance, Health, Emergency Relief Commodities, Shelter, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$20,199,786
SCF/US	Food Security, Health, IDP Assistance, Shelter, Nutrition, Emergency Relief Commodities, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$7,957,783
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
OCHA	Coordination and Information	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
USAID/Jordan	Support for Emergency Water Activities	Countrywide	\$500,000
WFP	Food Security, Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
World Vision	Health, Logistics, Emergency Relief , Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$6,793,739
<b>USAID/DCHA/FFP.....</b>			<b>Subtotal: \$425,571,000</b>
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
<b>USAID/DCHA/OTI.....</b>			<b>Subtotal: \$372,029,240</b>
Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$10,071,784
IOM	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$6,462,167
DAI	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$344,500,376
Internews	Media	Countrywide	\$160,359
Radio SAWA	Media	Countrywide	\$400,000
NDI/IRI	National Governance	Countrywide	\$650,000
IFES	National Governance	Countrywide	\$1,042,315
ICNL	Civil Society	Countrywide	\$39,238
Spa War**	Inter-Ministry Communications	Countrywide	\$8,703,001
<b>TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ FROM 2003-2005.....</b>			<b>\$4,825,455,603</b>

\* 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.