



# RECONSTRUCTION WEEKLY UPDATE

March 31, 2005



*Workers lay a concrete foundation for water clarifiers at a power plant outside of Basrah.*

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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 2003 to restore the capacity of Iraq's power system.

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

### Installation of water treatment units at four major power plants in Basrah is nearing completion.

For years, these plants have been operating without functioning water treatment units. When untreated brackish water is circulated through boiler tubes, it corrodes the tubes and eventually causes them to rupture. Long term use of poor quality water results in permanent damage to the boiler and heat exchange system, additional power outages, and costly repairs.



*Workers lay a concrete foundation for water clarifiers at a power plant outside of Basrah. The water treatment facilities will improve efficiency and reliability of Basrah's power supply.*

USAID sponsored the restoration of water treatment at the four Basrah power plants by installing reverse osmosis and electronic de-ionizing units. These units neutralize and remove salts and other minerals in the water. Other work on these water treatment units included repairing and replacing mechanical systems, electrical systems, plumbing, and water storage tanks. Two of the plants are entirely finished, the third is undergoing final inspections, and the fourth is laying concrete foundations for clarifiers and tanks.

The entire project is 83 percent complete and is expected to be finished by mid-May. The new facilities will improve the efficiency and reliability of Basrah's power plants.

## 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

### **Engineers are working to refurbish mechanical equipment at a Karbala sewage treatment plant.**

The plant was never entirely completed by the previous regime, and has not provided satisfactory primary sewage treatment. Prior to the refurbishment activity, the plant processed only about 30 percent of the sewage produced by Karbala's 549,000 inhabitants. Moreover, at some point its secondary aerobic digesters were contaminated with diesel fuel, making them unsuitable to process sludge. Recent activity at the plant has included



*150,000 people will benefit from the sewage plant rehabilitation.*

the refurbishment of mechanical equipment at the primary sedimentation tank, sludge pumping station, inlet pumping station and flocculation tanks. Pile-driving continues at the secondary sedimentation tanks. Alteration of the final discharge channel to adapt to a new primary effluent screw pump station is ongoing. The aeration tank is being prepared for refurbishment and its infiltrated water sump-pumped out. Preparatory work and dewatering continues at several pumping stations.

### **Mechanical and electrical work is underway at water and sanitation facilities serving rural areas of Diyala governorate.**

The plants require rehabilitation and expansion to better serve the 60,000 residents of the region. The water treatment plant is operating well below capacity and only provides 33 percent of the potable water needed for the region. As a result, many local residents rely on untreated well water which can lead to outbreaks of dangerous water-borne diseases like typhoid and cholera. This project is 66 percent finished and is set for completion in May 2005.

### **The trunk sewer systems serving Zafaraniyah, a district in South Eastern Baghdad, are being augmented due to their dilapidated state.**

The current sewer system is undersized and unreliable. Sections have collapsed, deteriorated or been damaged. This disrepair causes leaks and flow blockage which results in frequent overflows sending raw sewage into homes and onto neighborhood streets. The flooding generates exposed pools of raw sewage which contribute to the spread of water-borne communicable diseases such as typhoid, cholera, diphtheria, and malaria. The project will add gravity-flow lines and pumps to the existing main trunk sewage line. To make the system reliable, two major pump stations also require a total of 10 pumps, both vertical and horizontal types, and supporting electrical systems.

## 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

**A Baghdad university law library has been restored with assistance from the International Human Rights Law Institute at DePaul University.** This is the first of three law library renovations that the institute has undertaken as part of the \$3.8 million legal education reform component of the Higher Education and Development (HEAD) program. Two more libraries will soon be reopened after renovations. The university's library has suffered from 30 years of neglect. Reconstruction efforts include contributions in the areas of technical and administrative support, library resource assistance, repairs, and construction that helped to get the library functioning again. Renovations included building facilities, new print and electronic resources, a cataloguing system, new furniture and shelving, internet access, and a basic collection of books.

**Iraqi law faculty are engaged in the constitution writing process by presenting research papers at international law conferences and compiling their findings into a briefing packet for Transitional National Assembly members.** Their research topics include the Iraqi elections, the new constitution, principles of good governance, and federalism. The research will be included in a briefing book in Arabic on major legal issues facing the drafters. DePaul University is working as part of the HEAD program to empower faculty members in Iraqi colleges of law to undertake leading roles in legal reform.

**Law students from a university in As Sulaymaniyah governorate are participating in the Jessup International Moot Court Competition in Washington, DC in late March.** They have been preparing for this competition for months, studying international law, preparing briefs, and practicing in moot court classrooms. Three of the four competitors are women. DePaul University is sponsoring their trip under the HEAD program. This project emphasizes practical knowledge, courtroom experience, and ethical practices, so that students leave college prepared to undertake their responsibility as public servants rebuilding Iraq's legal system.

**A University in Mosul will modernize its facilities with new technology and necessary equipment.** Under the HEAD program, Jackson State University is supplying Iraqi universities with improved facilities and new equipment. At the Mosul university, they will install a computer network, Internet Protocol phone systems and internet access as part of the IT Infrastructure project. This technology will improve the institutional viability of the university.

**UNICEF held a meeting to coordinate donor and Ministry of Education efforts to supply education materials for Iraqi school children for the 2005/2006 school year.** The meeting should help expedite the procurement of essential supplies needed for the coming school year and strengthen Ministry of Education capacity. The participants decided to procure 5.9 million school kits for primary school children which include school materials such as notebooks, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, crayons, drawing books, rulers, etc.

## 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 Raffidain 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

**Iraqi officials are working to develop a transparent and modern tax and government finance system; such a system is essential to ensuring that government revenue is collected and managed in a way that does not interfere with the basic functioning of the economy.** USAID's Iraq Economic Governance II (IEG II) program is supporting Iraqi government counterparts to build their capacity to implement reforms in support of these goals. Recent activities have included:

*Financial Management Information System.* IEG II recently installed financial management information system (FMIS) hardware in the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Housing, and the Ministry of Health. IEG II also worked with Ministry of Finance (MoF) officials to brief them on the FMIS in anticipation of a meeting with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. FMIS is an automated networked accounting and budget execution system with online access and a real-time updated centralized database for all spending organizations in Iraq.

*Tax Policy and Revenue Analysis.* IEG II staff have completed and delivered a draft mobile phone user tax (in both Arabic and English versions) to the General Commission for Tax (GCT) and the MoF. IEG II advisors have had intensive discussions with the GCT on the proposed tax and have initiated a Mobile Phone Tax working committee. Advisors have also completed drafting an income tax briefing book which is now undergoing final internal reviews.

*Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations.* Advisors recently completed the final draft of the *Local Government Revenue* policy paper. This paper will be part of a policy brief on decentralizing services of the Iraqi government, along with three other, already-completed policy papers on *Intergovernmental Controls*, *Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations*, and *Intergovernmental Relationships and Decentralization*. The final required paper that will be part of the brief is an expenditure assignment policy review.

## 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

**The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) has approved a national program to identify and map areas of the country best suited to particular types of crops.** This type of analysis is known as agro-ecological characterization and will lead to the preparation of land suitability maps for major crops in Iraq. The project will apply modern concepts of "Agro-Ecological Zoning" for resources planning and management with an underlying goal to increase agricultural productivity, improve food security, preserve natural resources and contribute to enhanced prosperity for the whole population. All Iraqi farmers and livestock producers will benefit from the data generated by the project to assess production priorities and manage scarce resources.

Grants from USAID's Agriculture Reconstruction and Development for Iraq (ARDI) program will provide field equipment for the MOA mapping facility, including computer workstations, a high-capacity server, a scanner, large format printer and a digitizing table, as well as software and satellite imagery necessary to produce high-quality land-use and crop suitability maps. The major area of ARDI support, however, will be to train MOA personnel to generate and input raw data, and to produce the final maps in both electronic and hard formats.

**Ten officials from Water Resource Departments in five Iraqi governorates attended a training course in Amman, Jordan with support from ARDI.** The course, prepared and delivered by staff from the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and Jordanian universities, covered principles of water resource management. The course lasted eight days, with four days devoted to lectures and training and four days for field trips to local farms and the JVA headquarters to observe the control center, operation room, and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA).

**Iraqi farmers recently participated in a planning workshop as part of the wheat technology demonstration project being implemented by ARDI.** The three-hour workshop in Arbil addressed the farmers' progress in implementing improved practices over the past 30 days, including rodent control and application of pesticides, weed control and spraying of herbicides, and nitrogen fertilization. Under the crop technology program, one field is cultivated using traditional agriculture practices and an adjacent field is cultivated using the improved practices. This allows the participating farmers to directly compare the impact of both methods. The farmers who attended the workshop agreed that the plots where the improved practices have been used appear in much better condition than the traditional plots. The improved practices have been so successful that many farmers attending the workshop expressed interest in implementing improved practices for the next planting season. The group shared their experiences of the program to date and offered suggestions and constructive criticism for possible modifications in the future.

## 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

### **Essential health care equipment arrived in emergency rooms and supply houses throughout Iraq to help Iraqis strengthen their health services.**

This project is being implemented by UNICEF with the support of a \$36 million USAID grant. Recent emergency health equipment deliveries include 300 Emergency Health Kits, intravenous fluids and 29,332 tubes of Flamazine cream, a medicine essential in managing burns.

To contribute to combating malnutrition, UNICEF supplied 405 clinical scales for infants and newborns. Since the project commenced, a total of 2,300 scales have been delivered to maternity wards, pediatric wards, and delivery rooms where they are used to register and manage low birth weight infants. To reduce the prevalence of micronutrient deficiency disorders, 76 feeders have been also delivered to wheat flour mills throughout the country. These feeders will allow mills to enrich wheat flour with iron and folic acid, nutrients deficient in diets throughout Iraq.

**To enhance immunization coverage, UNICEF facilitated a four-day training program for twenty-two district immunization managers in Dahuk governorate.** The training will build the capacity of the managers to efficiently distribute and properly administer medical supplies and vaccines. UNICEF led a massive immunization campaign immediately following the 2003 conflict. Routine immunization services for all children were disrupted and approximately 270,000 children born at the time went without inoculations. The existing stock of vaccines in the country was rendered useless during the war after the cold-chain system was broken. After the conflict, UNICEF supported the distribution of vaccines enabling routine immunization to resume.

**A Baghdad clinic and medical school training center received new furniture and equipment through the support of their local Community Action Group (CAG) and USAID's Community Action Program (CAP).** The center serves about 400 patients daily, approximately 250 Bachelor's Degree students and 20 doctors pursuing higher studies. The facilities were neglected under the previous regime. The project provided furniture and equipment which will help the staff to do their job properly. The Center's manager, a doctor living in the same neighborhood, said that the new equipment will allow the center to function as it was originally intended. The project is not only vital for the immediate community but throughout Iraq as the students training at the center come from all regions of the country.

## 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 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

**Twenty-five technicians from the Wasit Governorate Agriculture Directorate recently completed a five-day basic computer training course that was sponsored by the Local Governance Program (LGP) team** in South Central Iraq, in conjunction with the Wasit Agricultural Media Extension Center. The training focused on internet research and a refresher on Word and Excel. With modern computer skills, agricultural experts can find data on prices and pursue up-to-date research on technical or biological problems related to agricultural production.

**The LGP Policy Reform Team (PRT) continued its efforts to promote decentralized governance in Iraq.** The PRT met with officials from the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works (MMPW) decentralization task force to discuss the legal basis for the decentralization of municipal services and to outline an implementation plan for a pilot project. The MMPW decentralization task force recently completed its first draft of a ministerial order delegating additional responsibilities to two designated pilot sites and submitted the draft to the Director General of the Municipalities Directorate at the MMPW for review/approval. The pilot project will delegate both resources and decision-making authority to two local departments of the Ministry.

**LGP is conducting Community Council Liaison Activities in the often contentious Salah Ad Din governorate.** By late February, the Community Council Liaison Activities had generated the following actions:

- *The Tuz District Council of Salah Ad Din Governorate* discussed taking further action on paving the five kilometer main road in their village.
- *The Sulaiman Beg Subdistrict Council* discussed frequent electricity shortages due to the collapse of power pylons in the area.
- The need for a new cemetery for the sub-district was discussed in the *Samarra District Council*.
- In Tikrit District, the village of Al Hamra needs a secondary school
- Al Mihzim village agricultural fields need hydraulic pumps for irrigation. *The Al Dujail District Council* discussed the need to build a new hospital in the district. which was ultimately approved by the council.

**Fifteen council members of the Al Aziza District Council in Wasit governorate recently completed a three-day workshop on the functions and operations of local councils,** sponsored by the LGP team in South Central Iraq. The council members represent a population of 300,000, or 30% of the provincial population. Councils such as Aziza were elected last year but had no preparation for their new democratic duties.



## 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

**The newly elected Iraqi Transitional National Authority (TNA) will write a constitution this year and it is essential that women be involved in the process in order to guarantee their rights.** USAID's partner implementing the project to support the TNA and the drafting of the Iraqi Constitution hosted a meeting in late February with 26 women leaders to discuss an initiative to ensure that women's rights are included in the constitution. Over the next year, the implementing partner will work with women elected officials and civil society representatives to educate Iraqis on the importance of constituting women's rights, and to train them in the necessary advocacy and education skills they will need to promote their rights with the Iraqi Government and the society at large.

At the meeting, the women agreed that they want a constitution that will allow them to exercise their civil, political, economic and social rights. Further, that women's issues need to be integrated into the articles of the constitution instead of having an independent women's charter as has happened in other countries.

Other issues discussed were the representation of women in government and specific civil rights such as freedom of travel, marriage and divorce laws, and family and inheritance laws. Broader issues included the protection of minorities; the structure of the judicial system, legislature and executive; adherence to international treaties and conventions; and protection of minorities. Whether Iraq has a unicameral or bicameral legislature, an executive cabinet or a state religion is still to be debated; what is clear is that Iraqi women saw their rights as human rights, and are ready to work inside and outside the TNA to guarantee them in the constitution.

Because constitutional rights espouse the fundamental values of a country, constituting women's rights means that these rights are recognized, valued and promoted. Furthermore, constituting their rights provides women with the tools to challenge government activity (or inactivity) on women's issues, and offers greater protection than other legislated or common law. Guaranteeing their rights in the constitution protects women from such problems as employment discrimination, political under-representation and unfair family or divorce laws.

The timeline is short, however. The Iraqi Transitional Administrative Law (TAL) states that the TNA must write the first draft of the Constitution by August 15 followed by two months of public education on its contents, before a popular referendum is held on October 15. If the TNA's Constitutional Commission decides that it needs more time, the members can ask for a one time, six month extension.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Awarded more than 3,150 small grants totaling more than \$257.8 million for quick impact activities that support good governance, civil society, conflict management and mitigation, human rights and transitional justice.
- Funded over 100 grants totaling \$3.8 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

**Iraqi citizens from 85 villages attended public meetings intended to heighten awareness of marriage laws.** Based on traditional practices, many Iraqis throughout the region enter into illegal marriages which can result in human rights violations and imminent legal confusion. Some of these women, who are frequently under the legal marriage age of 18, are deprived of basic rights and children from these marriages have difficulty establishing their legal identity. An Iraqi non-governmental organization (NGO) working in the north sent mobile teams to the villages to hold the public meetings over a three-month period. The NGO plans to print a report about the meetings in the local newspaper. The mobile teams were supported by funds from an Iraq Transition Initiative (ITI) grant which will allow the Iraqi NGO to contribute to empowering women to protect themselves in marriage and to promote social stability by addressing the social problems arising from illegal marriages.

**A human rights NGO in northern Iraq is strengthening the capacity of human rights and peace advocates.** Through an ITI grant, the NGO held thirty workshops educating participants on democracy and building their capacity to advocate for human rights and participate in Iraq's transition to a democratic system. Participants included students, youth, teachers, lawyers, media professionals, members of women's organizations, and NGOs. Mayors, district directors, and security personnel attended separate seminars directly addressing their needs.

**A women's rights NGO in northern Iraq procured equipment and resources to expand its outreach and educational activities under an ITI grant.** ITI enabled the NGO to provide literacy courses and social outreach to area women, thus empowering them to become more active participants in their communities. Teaching uneducated women basic reading and writing skills also enabled them to improve their economic well-being thus strengthening confidence in Iraq's transition to a democracy.

**A photography NGO in northern Iraq purchased office equipment, supplies and furniture through an ITI grant.** The association promotes high-quality photography in Iraq and empowers photographers to play a significant role in the development of an independent artistic community, essential to an open, transparent and democratic Iraq. The NGO also aims to expand its exhibitions and improve the skills of its 2000 members.

**A sub-district council in northern Iraq beautified one of their secondary schools to provide a safer and more student-friendly environment.** The labor and equipment for the project was provided by an ITI grant. By using local labor, this project provides employment opportunities for young residents. Many of the residents in this area endured pressures to join the former regime. As a result, this region became an epicenter for insurgency and conflict. The school beautification project increases the community's hope for a brighter future.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Rehabilitated 105 water treatment units and 396 kilometers of water networks to ensure the provision of potable water in critical areas.
- Rehabilitated 72 health facilities and re-equipped 238 to improve the quality of health care.
- Vaccinated over 3,000 women and children against measles.
- Registered internally displaced persons and provided them with water, blankets, medical kits, and hygiene kits.
- Rehabilitated a water treatment plant in a poor area of Baghdad. The rehab is benefiting 1 million residents.

*In the first year of programming, USAID's humanitarian assistance focused on emergency interventions to prevent food and water shortages and provide adequate shelter and medical supplies throughout Iraq. USAID is now directing humanitarian assistance efforts through the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to specifically target Iraq's internally displaced people (IDP), primarily in northern Iraq, but also in two southern governorates.*

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

**USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is distributing Livelihood Packages to displaced families in south and west Kirkuk.** Local Community Development Groups helped OFDA assess the community and prioritize the families in greatest need.

Over 2,300 family packages have been distributed among the displaced population. These packages include blankets, clothes, heaters, cookers, and plastic sheeting – non-food items, which would help people stay warm and dry during the winter. In addition more than 50 jobs were created during procurement, with additional jobs being generated during the distributions.

In seven villages north and east of Kirkuk generators have been connected to deep wells to provide approximately 2,500 persons with safe drinking water. This project was undertaken in coordination with the Kirkuk Directorate of Water.



*An Iraqi man receives a Livelihood Assets Package for his family in Kirkuk. Over 2,300 packages have been distributed to displaced families throughout Kirkuk.*

*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 31, 2005

| FY 2003-2005*                    |   |                              |                                  |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Implementing Partner             | Sector  | Regions                      | Obligation                       |
| <b>Reconstruction USAID/ANE</b>  |   |                              | <b>Subtotal: \$3,874,775,557</b> |
| Abt Associates                   | Health  | Countrywide                  | \$23,031,886                     |
| AFCAP                            | Logistics   | Countrywide                  | \$91,500,000                     |
| Army Corps of Engineers          | Architecture and Engineering Services   | Countrywide                  | \$30,842,037                     |
| 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<br>Al Basr<br>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                  | \$241,910,757                    |
| 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 31, 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: \$171,615,822</b> |
| Administrative                               | Administrative Costs  | Countrywide               | \$7,996,855                    |
| 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 31, 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 | \$15,000,000                   |
| 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   | \$22,199,786                   |
| 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>\$4,836,991,619</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.