

USAID/IRAQ ECONOMIC GROWTH AND AGRICULTURE OFFICE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO IRAQI MINISTRIES

Ministry of Finance

- Implemented Financial Management Information System (FMIS), covering 85% of GOI spending units; currently extending FMIS to remaining GOI agencies and introducing additional functions (Purchasing, Assets, and Revenue).
- Trained nearly 500 GOI staff to use the FMIS system.
- Implemented complementary government wide budgeting process and providing assistance to GOI on intergovernmental budgeting/fiscal federalism issues.
- Developed and received concurrence from the Minister of Finance of customs modernization and taxation strategies.
- Begun pilot testing of the tax administration automated system.
- Created a Tax Policy Unit within the Ministry of Finance that will be in charge of formulating sound tax policy.
- Drafted Personal and Corporate Income Tax reform strategy.
- Registered and issued Taxpayer Identification Numbers to businesses
- Published tax website where taxpayers can get information and forms.
- Developed/implementing a Customs Modernization Plan
- Implemented an automated administration system for the Reconstruction Levy on behalf of the General Commission for Customs including all necessary hardware and VSAT communication links between customs posts and Baghdad.
- Published website where importers can find relevant information and forms related to customs issues.
- Drafted and amended Mobile Phone Tax law.
- Completed a comprehensive assessment of six State-owned banks.

Ministry of Trade

- Drafted and amended Commercial Agency law, (Competition and Consumer Protection Law, Civil Society/NFP Organization Law, Investment Promotion Law, and Privatization Law.
- Integrated Iraq's three business registry entities, implemented harmonized IT infrastructure and Law of Company (2004) processes/procedures, and developed a BR website; 33,384 businesses are registered in Iraq.
- Established the Iraqi Investment Promotion Agency (IIPA), and Iraq Trade Information Center in the Ministry of Trade that includes provision of training to staff, office equipment, computer systems with VSAT Internet connectivity and websites.
- Conducted the IIPA's first investment mission to Turkey that identified potential Turkish investors for projects in Iraq, especially in food processing.
- Developed an Investor Roadmap analyzing investment constraints and outlining corrective policies.
- Developed a Competitiveness Analysis recommending key sectors for investment and development.

- Assisted the GOI to draft the Memorandum of Foreign Trade Regime (MFTR) for Iraq's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- Established a Trade Policy Unit in the Ministry of Trade to support the GOI's WTO accession efforts, including the provision of training across the GOI ministries on key WTO accession chapters of Market Access, Customs, Intellectual Property and Standards
- Conducted and continue to conduct in-depth specialist training with Iraqi counterparts at the Ministries of Trade, Finance, Interior, Agriculture, Health, Culture and others on trade-related issues such as WTO accession, tariffs, customs, intellectual property, trade in services, and other topics
- Provided and continue to provide training on WTO accession and other trade-related issues for the Government of Iraq and for the private sector. Since the beginning of 2005 well over 200 GOI officials and 500 private sector representatives have received technical training and assistance
- Delivered public awareness sessions and training for 1,700 business professionals on business management and market reform issues.

Ministry of Industry and Minerals:

- Initiated the formation of an Inter-Ministerial Committee for Reform and Rehabilitation of SOEs (IMC) tasked with reporting on the matter to the Cabinet (Members: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry and Minerals, the Central Bank, the Board of Supreme Audit, the Prime Minister's office).
- Assisted IMC's Working Group to draft a Report containing recommendations that was endorsed by the IMC and then by the Cabinet. (Cabinet Order No. M/1/15/17871 in December 2005).
- Assisted IMC's Working Group to prepare a structure for the proposed rehabilitation and privatization body and to draft legislation for parliament's approval.
- Produced an Excess Employment Study providing recommendations and costing of various strategies in coping with labor redundancy in SOEs.
- Initiated the formation of a Privatization Working Group (PWG) at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals (including also Ministries of Trade and Planning) and the formation of technical sub-units within this Ministry to support continued progress toward preparing selected SOEs for privatization.
- Assisted PWG to prepare two privatization cases for Cabinet's approval.
- Assisted PWG with pre-sale advice – structuring the transactions, bid evaluation techniques, drafting invitations for expressions of interest, layout of Information Memoranda.
- Completed 58 profiles of state-owned enterprises to form the initial content of a database to facilitate privatization efforts.
- Assisted MIM to develop a corporate governance framework for the commercialization of SOEs.
- Provided direct training on a weekly basis to approximately 30 MIM staff.

Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

- Drafted and amended Social Welfare Law and Pensions and Social Security for Workers Law.
- Advised Ministries of Finance and Labor and Social Affairs on development and implementation of Social Safety Net to reduce the social impact of macroeconomic reforms and leveraged a US\$ 5 million World Bank Trust Fund allocation to expand coverage.
- Advised Ministries of Finance and Labor and Social Affairs to diagnose pension plans, prepare scenarios of reforms through setting up the inter ministerial Pension Reform Steering Committee for Iraq (PRSC-I), and leveraged a US\$ 1 million World Bank Trust Fund allocation for the inception stage of reforms.
- Upgraded the information technology system to support the implementation of a Social Safety Net system to cover up to one million poor households.
- Assessed the information needs of MOLSA, prepared the procurement acquisition for the Social Security IT unit in the Social Security office to cover Baghdad contributors, and will establish a data capture unit in Baghdad.
- Supported MOLSA in development of a media campaign for implementation of the new social safety net program.
- Assisted in the formation of an inter-ministerial Antipoverty Committee.
- Created Pension Guidebook to promote foreign employer compliance.
- Assisted in the formulation of instructions for the new State pension law to address inconsistencies and to limit the negative impact of this law on the Budget.

Ministry of Agriculture

- Demonstrated a 40% average wheat yield increase over traditional methods for farmers in three northern governorates
- Distributed 169 seed cleaners to upgrade seed stock for wheat, making 27,000 tons of cleaned and treated wheat seed available for planting, benefiting 41,000 farm families around the country
- Refurbished 42 veterinary clinics in 16 governorates, serving 2.8 million animals and 93,000 animal breeders
- Introduced 12,600 farmers, public officials, and university staff to technologies for high value cash crops and cereal grains, including tomatoes, olives, wheat, barley, rice and maize
- Rehabilitated tertiary irrigation canal and drainage infrastructure reaching 445,000 rural residents (321,000 acres)
- Initiated program to upgrade MOA extension service, providing training in communication skills, adult learning, and participatory methods
- Trained 24 people in the Ministries of Agriculture, Transport, and Water Resources for the National Program in Agro-ecological Zone Mapping, which will enable planners to maximize returns from all production inputs, resulting in production cost savings
- Established a wholesale prices monitoring and information system for vegetables, fruits, meat, and dry goods in 15 major agricultural markets nationwide.

Ministry of Science and Technology

- Established a Chief Information Officers Council that has representatives from all Iraq Government organizations which is a process being led by MOST.
- Drafted a Prime Ministerial Order to formally establish a national CIO Office and formally appoint Ministry CIOs.
- Produced a CIO handbook outlining a Government-wide IT program for Iraq.
- Created Iraq Government Enterprise Architecture and Strategic IT Plan.

Ministry of Communications:

- Assisted in the implementation of a restructuring plan for the Ministry of Communication and strengthened the capacity of the MOC as well as the Iraqi Telecommunications Regulator (NCCMC).
- Developed a strategy paper on the reorganization of the ITPC (state-owned telephone company).

Ministry of Electricity:

- Plan created for the establishment of the Corporate Finance Group to formulate finance and policy analysis within the MOE.
- Facilitated financial/statistical system training in Egypt for 63 MOE staff.
- First set of metering population data survey collected and analyzed.

Ministry of Oil:

- Following a series of meetings with a USAID-funded advisor, MOO has agreed to form a drafting committee to consider a hydrocarbon law, a national oil company law, and other petroleum related issues.
- Provided technical assistance at meetings sponsored by UNAMI as well as other meetings within the MOO regarding the formation of a National Hydrocarbon Commission.

Central Bank of Iraq

- Advised the CBI in the development of the first Monetary Survey to be published by Iraq which is a tool to formulate and implement monetary policy and a requirement of EPCA and SBA.
- Amended Key Financial Indicators to improve liquidity forecasting.
- Assisted the CBI in the development and implementation of three monetary policy instruments including overnight deposits, reserve requirement, and Open Market Operations.
- Drafted and recommended a progressive enforcement action plan implemented by the CBI.
- Provided expert reform advice to Minister of Finance and Central Bank of Iraq (CBI) Governor to develop a bank restructuring plan and eliminate dominance of state-owned banks.
- Worked with the Central Bank of Iraq to enhance database management skills.

Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology

- Provided assistance in preparing the monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- Equipped and established the first modern computer training center and a website for the COSIT.

National Communications and Regulatory Commission:

- Advised the NCMC on the dot-iq Internet address, local access networks and the mobile cellular license tender process.
- National frequency spectrum organized.
- CMC organization capacity enhanced to manage spectrum and telecom operations
- Prepared numerous regulatory documents for CMC.

Iraq Securities Commission:

- Strengthened the Iraq Securities Commission (ISC) through assistance in updating its regulations, conducting public awareness events, and providing a grant to upgrade its facilities.