



Bi-Weekly Update

August 11, 2006



Iraqi women participate in message development training. The training focused on public advocacy campaigns to hone message delivery skills in public speaking and using media.

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USAID assists Iraqis in reconstructing their country by working with the national government and local authorities. Programs are implemented in coordination with other USG agencies, 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.

New Mission Director Sworn In

WASHINGTON D.C. – Today, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced the swearing in of Ms. Hilda “Bambi” Arellano as its new Mission Director for Iraq. Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance and USAID Administrator Randall L. Tobias presided at the event and administered the oath to Ms. Arellano.

“Our country’s commitment to supporting Iraq as it builds the foundations of a free society is everywhere in evidence. Bambi will build on these achievements as the leader of a most impressive team. I am looking forward to working with Bambi over the next year and am convinced that she will build on the many successes of our previous directors,” said Ambassador Tobias.

Among other objectives, as Mission Director, Ms. Arellano will:

- Manage the mission’s goals to institute democratic practices.
- Increase exports and income generation opportunities for the poor.
- Improve management of important eco-regions.
- Expand access to quality reproductive health services.

Joining USAID in 1987, Ms. Arellano extensive experience includes stints as Deputy Mission Director for Guatemala, Deputy Director in Bolivia, Mission Director in Ecuador, and, from 2001-2004, Director for USAID’s Regional Services Center for Europe and Eurasia in Budapest, Hungary. Most recently she served as the Mission Director in Peru.

Before joining USAID, Ms. Arellano lived and worked in countries throughout Latin America, as well as other developing nations for 17 years. During that time she worked with the United Nations Volunteer Program in Peru and Bolivia on credit projects for rural women, and later with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as a program consultant in Latin America and Africa. More recently she was Regional Director for Latin America for income generation projects targeted to low income women in a program sponsored jointly by the Organization of American States and USAID.

A graduate of Cornell University, with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science, Ms. Arellano also holds a master’s degree in Political Science from the University of Texas at Austin. Additionally, she received her master’s of arts in Teaching (MAT) from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH.

For more information on USAID’s programs in Iraq, please visit our website: http://www.usaid.gov/locations/asia_near_east/countries/iraq/.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

High Value Crops

Improved Date Palm Output: Established date palm nurseries in 13 governorates that will expand Iraqi palm tree population by 410,000 new trees per year.

Increased Olive Tree

Population: Planted 9,000 olive trees in 16 demonstration plots countrywide.

Provided Farm Machinery Training & Tools:

Trained 107 mechanics in farm machinery repair and supplied tools to help establish private repair businesses.

Rehabilitated Veterinary Clinics:

64 veterinary clinics have been rehabilitated, serving more than 127,000 animal breeders.

Crop Production

Seed Improvement: Distributed 169 wheat seed cleaners to nine NGOs in 18 governorates. Produced over 31,500 metric tons of Grade 1 seed and treated wheat seed for 2006-07 season.

Increased Training: 175 operators trained in wheat seed cleaning and treating.

Farm Machinery Repair: To date, a total of 2,629 tractors have been repaired throughout Iraq.

Soil & Water Management Strategy Development:

Initiated a 10-ministry effort to develop the Iraq water and land use strategy.

Grant Provision - Irrigation:

Provided small-scale grants that increased canal and water infrastructure improvements on 320,000 acres of land serving 445,000 Iraqis.

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 development initiatives, and rehabilitate the natural resource base.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

ARDI completes participatory extension training program for Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) staff. The first round of training, which began in October 2005 and lasted nine weeks, prepared 15 staff as trainers. As part of their overall training, these trainers then trained a total of 174 facilitators in participatory extension techniques in two rounds of training, each consisting of six courses that lasted two weeks.

In the MOA-ARDI extension program, farmers meet in groups of 10 to 15, supported by an extension facilitator who assists them in solving their own problems through practical discussions and activities in their own villages and fields. The sessions ran for a full season so that all production practices can be covered and discussed in group activities. In these sessions, farmers are able to discuss topics among themselves, put agreed-upon operations into practice and evaluate results. The extension agent is responsible for facilitating the group sessions and, when necessary, supplementing them with his or her own knowledge.

Inbred-hybrid maize plant growth monitoring continues.

There is a potentially substantial market for maize in Iraq, consisting mainly of poultry producers who depend on wheat and expensive maize imports to use as feed. Maize producers suffer from low productivity due to poor seeds and poor cultivation practices. ARDI and the Ministry of Agriculture have been working to improve domestic maize production throughout Iraq. A significant part of this effort is the introduction of hybrid maize seeds into Iraq. Hybrids are more productive than local varieties and enable farmers to improve both the quality and quantity of maize produced throughout Iraq. Not only is increased maize production valuable to maize producers, it also provides poultry producers with dependable local feed grains.

ARDI conducted maize trials last year and found that hybrid seeds were 30 percent more effective than local open pollinated varieties. Hybrids can be cultivated for specific characteristics like drought resistance or high yield by combining two inbred parents. The resulting hybrids are always stronger than the parents. In order to test the adaptability of inbreeds on Iraqi soils, ARDI imported a number of public inbred lines from the United States which have been used to create hybrids with characteristics favorable for growth in Iraq. These characteristics are namely high yield capacity, drought resistance and high pH tolerance.

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 law-making, representation, executive oversight, and other responsibilities as provided by the Transitional Administrative Law.
- Assist the Executive Authority, the Presidency Council, and the Council of Ministers and its presiding Prime Minister to develop governing processes, rules of procedure, regulations and directives necessary to enforce the laws, and to implement government programs and policies.
- Support the process for adopting an Iraqi constitution that promotes democratic principles and values through 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.

USAID has begun working with the new Council of Representatives and providing support to key ministries. Efforts continue to plan and implement a variety of programs, undertaken in partnership with Iraqi counterparts, meeting the needs of the evolving Iraqi democracy.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Women trainees learn elements of successful advocacy campaigns during skills building training. This basic advocacy training focused on the identification of a clear objective and strategic solutions to an issue, coalition building, development of a communication strategy, and choosing an appropriate target audience. The trainees have been working together to develop specific campaigns concerning child welfare, citizenship, domestic violence, education, and employment law.

The trainings also included fundraising and event planning that built upon the previous experience of the trainees. The training emphasized the transition from raising resources that help individuals and families to promoting large scale legislative action from which to obtain long-term funding. It paid special attention to enabling advocacy campaigns to identify donors' motivations for giving to short-term problems in order to connect them to long-term solutions.

A select group of eight women participated in Advocacy Training of Trainers specifically focused on the training proficiency of the participants. The aim is for trainees to share their knowledge with other men and women.

The Iraqi Civic Action Network (ICAN) and USAID partner National Democratic Institute (NDI) conduct citizen education campaigns. ICAN and NDI also held several high level meetings with officials to carry issues of public concern to decision-makers.

The campaigns discussed the status of women and proposals for increasing the level and quality of women's participation in political. A public forum was also held on Article 41 of the Iraqi constitution discussed possible reform efforts ensuring equal rights for men and women. Among other issues covered during the campaign included a review of Constitutional rights, organizing strategies for increasing civic participation, NGO monitoring of Governorate Council sessions, and the role of law enforcement officers.

First of four regional NGO leadership skills development training sessions completed in Erbil. Iraqi senior trainers, supported by USAID partner NDI, trained 18 participants from 10 NGOs operating in five northern governorates. The program included leadership skills development, conflict resolution, and democratic principles of staff management. Participants identified characteristics of effective NGO management, problem-solving strategies, and discussed mechanisms for sharing training materials and information with other members of their NGOs. Additional training sessions will take place in throughout the country over the next few weeks.

Since the cessation of the 2003 conflict, USAID has completed its 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 management and distribution of food rations to Iraqi citizens.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- USAID projects have added 1,292 MWs of new or rehabilitated generation capacity to the national grid. This is a big portion of the over 2,700 MWs of new or rehabilitated capacity added in total by the USG.
- Provided out-of-country training for 240 Ministry of Electricity officials, plant managers, and engineers in how to properly operate and maintain the power plants.
- In addition to the new and rehabilitation power projects, provided over \$100 million of extra equipment and spares to the Ministry of Electricity to support the maintenance and expansion of the power system.
- Rebuilt several hundred kilometers of 400 kV electrical transmission line between Nassariya and Khor Al Zubayr in the Basrah area, re-establishing the major bulk power transfer link between Central and Southern Iraq.
- Provided 37 electrical distribution substations for the Baghdad area totaling over 1,100 Mva of new capacity.
- Restored water treatment services to 2.8 million Iraqis and provided sewage treatment to 5.1 million Iraqis.
- Improved potable water and/or sewage treatment service in six Iraqi cities and provided treated water to 70 rural communities nationwide.
- Improved the domestic telephone system and restored international calling service.
- Installed a consolidated fiber optic network, which will allow Ministry of Electricity officials to monitor and control the electric grid, greatly improving the reliability of electric power service to Iraqis.
- Repaired and refurbished Baghdad International Airport and Basrah Airport to prepare for commercial operation.
- Reopened Umm Qasr seaport to commercial operation, through dredging and clearing harbor, restoring port tariffs, and renovating buildings and infrastructure.
- Rebuilt three major highway bridges and 72 km of the Iraqi Republican Railway line from the Port of Umm Qasr to Shuayiba Junction.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- Audited more than 1,200 km of the fiber optic backbone network and performed emergency repairs, reconnecting 20 cities and 70 percent 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.

FOOD SECURITY

- Worked directly with the World Food Program (WFP) and Coalition Forces to re-establish the Public Distribution System (PDS) in less than 30 days, avoiding a humanitarian food crisis and providing food security throughout the country.
- With Iraqi food distributors, Food for Peace, the WFP, and Coalition Forces maintained deliveries from June through December 2003 in all 18 governorates.
- Played a key role in an agreement between the WFP, CPA, and the MoT that provided the WFP with the resources and authority to continue to support the PDS through June 2004.
- Completed a rapid food security field assessment from 17 impoverished districts in May 2005 and presented assessment findings in the USAID food security forum in August 2005. Forum participants reviewed data to better understand food security in Iraq and recommended actions to reduce risk among Iraq's vulnerable populations.

EDUCATION

- Through the Higher Education and Development (HEAD) program five American and 10 Iraqi universities partnered to aid the reestablishment of academic excellence in Iraq's higher education system. More than 1,500 Iraqi faculty and students have participated in workshops, trainings, conferences, and courses all over the world since January 2004. Also, the HEAD program rehabilitated university facilities throughout the country and provided books and electronic resources to university libraries.

PROGRAM FINANCIAL SUMMARY

August 11, 2006

FY 2003-2006*			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
Reconstruction USAID/ANE		Subtotal: \$3,969,507,640	
Abt Associates	Health	Countrywide	\$23,031,886
AFCAP	Logistics	Countrywide	\$85,140,758
America's Development Foundation	Civil Society	Countrywide	\$42,880,157
Army Corps of Eng.	Architecture and Engineering Services	Countrywide	\$29,244,356
BearingPoint	Economic Governance	Countrywide	\$79,583,885
BearingPoint	Economic Governance II	Countrywide	\$108,500,000
Bechtel	Airports, buildings, power, railroads, roads, bridges, port, water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$1,029,833,259
Bechtel	Infrastructure II: Airports, buildings, emergency communications, power, railroads, roads and bridges, Umm Qasr seaport, water and sanitation, Basra Hospital	Countrywide	\$1,263,411,678
CAII	Education	Countrywide	\$56,503,000
CAII	Education II	Countrywide	\$51,809,000
CEPPS I	Iraq Governing Council	Countrywide	\$675,000
CEPPS II	Domestic Observation/Vote	Countrywide	\$68,595,000
CEPPS III	Voter Education	Countrywide	\$45,310,000
CEPPS IV	Elections Administration Support	Countrywide	\$41,000,000
Community Action Program	Development in impoverished communities	Countrywide	\$294,050,000
DAI	Marshlands	South	\$4,000,000
DAI	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$101,352,912
Futures Group	Health	Countrywide	\$30,000
Logenix	Health	North/Central	\$108,506
Partnership for Child Healthcare	Health	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
MACRO Int'l.	Health	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
Louis Berger	Vocational Education	Countrywide	\$30,016,115
Louis Berger	Private Sector Development II	Countrywide	\$95,000,000

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FY 2003-2006			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
RTI	Local Governance	Countrywide	\$241,910,757
RTI	Local Governance II	Countrywide	\$85,000,000
RTI	Health Training	Countrywide	\$22,015,750
SkyLink	Airport Management	Bag., Bas., Mos.	\$27,200,000
SSA	Port Management	Umm Qasr	\$14,318,985
UNDP	Trust Fund Contribution	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
UNESCO	Textbook Printing & Distribution: Math & Science	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$36,700,000
UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$19,600,000
University Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Research Foundation of the State University of New York/ Stony Brook and the Universities of Chicago, Boston and Oxford • The Human Rights Institute, DePaul University College of Law and Italy's International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences • University of Hawaii, the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, University of Jordan and the American University in Beirut • Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, Alcorn State University, Mississippi Valley State University, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Benetech, US-Iraq Business Resources • University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Cameron University and Langston University 	Countrywide	\$20,730,000
VEGA	Business Skills Training	Countrywide	\$12,089,702
VFH	Elections Support	Countrywide	\$999,926
WHO	Strengthen Health System	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$4,808,858
World Bank	Trust Fund Contribution	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
Yankee Group	Telecoms Planning	Countrywide	\$58,150
Emergency Relief USAID/DCHA/OFDA.....			Subtotal: \$186,506,209
ACTED	Water and sanitation, health/hygiene, education	Eastern Iraq	\$2,995,793
Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$9,203,073
AirServ	Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,309,876
ARC	Capacity Building	Central and Southern Iraq	\$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' and Dhi Qar	\$1,507,900
InterAction	Coordination	Countrywide	\$92,860
IDA	Health	Countrywide	\$1,318,437

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FY 2003-2006			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
IMC	Health, IDP Assistance, Food Security, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, Capacity Building	Countrywide	\$38,332,887
IOM	IDP Assistance	Central and Southern Iraq	\$18,892,470
IRC	IDP Assistance, Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$8,000,411
IRD	IDP Assistance, Health, Water and Sanitation, Livelihoods, Emergency Relief Commodities	Northern and Central Iraq	\$17,076,190
Logistics	Emergency Relief Commodities and USAID/DART Support	Countrywide	\$22,771,653
Mercy Corps	IDP Assistance, Health, Emergency Relief Commodities, Shelter, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$25,251,114
SCF/US	Food Security, Health, IDP Assistance, Shelter, Nutrition, Emergency Relief Commodities, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$8,638,652
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
OCHA	Coordination and Information	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
USAID/Jordan	Support for Emergency Water Activities	Countrywide	\$500,000
WFP	Food Security, Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
World Vision	Health, Logistics, Emergency Relief, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$6,793,739
USAID/DCHA/FFP.....			Subtotal: \$425,571,000
WFP	Operations	Countrywide	\$45,000,000
WFP	Emerson Trust—81,500 MT	Countrywide	\$40,337,000
WFP	P.L. 48— Title II emergency food commodities—163,820 MT	Countrywide	\$140,234,000
WFP	Regional Purchase—330,000MT	Countrywide	\$200,000,000
USAID/DCHA/OTI.....			Subtotal: \$417,587,768
Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$11,630,312
IOM	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$6,462,167
DAI	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$389,500,376
Internews	Media	Countrywide	\$160,359
Radio SAWA	Media	Countrywide	\$400,000
NDI/IRI	National Governance	Countrywide	\$650,000
IFES	National Governance	Countrywide	\$1,042,315
ICNL	Civil Society	Countrywide	\$39,238
Spa War**	Inter-Ministry Communications	Countrywide	\$8,703,001
TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ FROM 2003-2006			\$5,000,172,617

* Figures in funding sheet are subject to change and do not represent a final official accounting of USG obligations.