



**UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

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Weekly Update #24, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

This fact sheet highlights overall accomplishments and some weekly activities from USAID’s reconstruction efforts in Iraq. For more information on USAID’s programs in Iraq please see: www.usaid.gov/iraq

USAID assists Iraqis in reconstructing their country by working within the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA). USAID programs are implemented in coordination with the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Coalition country partners, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector partners. The USAID Mission in Iraq carries out programs in education, health care, food security, infrastructure reconstruction, airport and seaport management, economic growth, community development, local governance, and transition initiatives.

The USAID Mission in Iraq implements programs in four strategic areas:

1. Restoring Essential Infrastructure
2. Supporting Essential Health and Education
3. Expanding Economic Opportunity
4. Improving Efficiency and Accountability of Government



More than 200 young adults gathered in Baghdad this week from all parts of Iraq for a National Agenda Dialogue Conference. The conference touched on many subjects as they pertain to youth including economics, religion, democracy, media, education and women’s issues.

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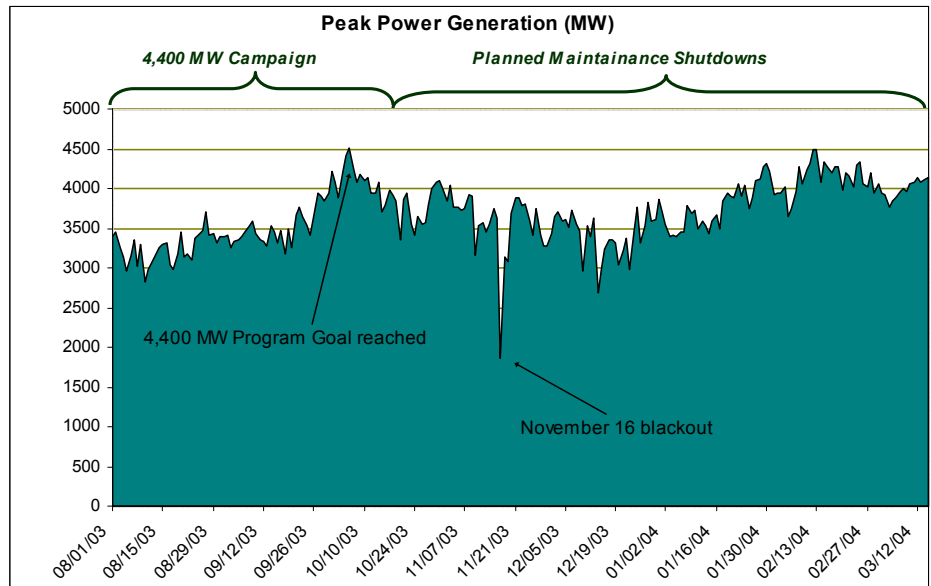
Program Descriptions and Accomplishments

1. Restore Essential Infrastructure

Electricity -- Objectives include the emergency repair or rehabilitation of power generation facilities and electrical grids. Teams of engineers from the Ministry of Electricity, USAID, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the CPA have been working since May to restore capacity to Iraq's power system, which was dilapidated from decades of neglect, mismanagement, and looting.

Accomplishments to Date:

- Generated 4,518 MW on October 6—surpassing the pre-war level of 4,400 MW. Average production over the last seven days was 4,108 MW.
- Generated 98,917 MW hours on February 14—the highest since reconstruction began.
- Installed independent sources of power at Baghdad International Airport and Umm Qasr seaport.
- Collaborating with Bechtel, CPA, and Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity on projects to repair thermal units, replace and repair turbines, rehabilitate the transmission network, and install and restore generators. This collaboration is expected to produce 2,152 MW of incremental capacity.



- Adding 1,020 MW of capacity by summer 2004 through maintenance and rehabilitation projects at nine gas turbine units and three diesel units.
- Adding 1,132 MW of capacity by summer 2004 through new generation projects, including new gas turbine units being installed at 10 sites.
- USAID's portion of the work includes:
 - Rehabilitating units 5 and 6 at Doura thermal power plant.
 - Rehabilitating units 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 at Bayji thermal power plant.
 - Continuing reconstruction of the country's 400-kv transmission network by rebuilding 220 kilometers of Khor Az Zubayr-Nasiriyah 400-kv line.
 - Installing new generating capacity at Kirkuk and South Baghdad power plants.

Airports -- Objectives include: providing material and personnel for the timely repair of damaged airport facilities, rehabilitating airport terminals, facilitating humanitarian and commercial flights, and preparing the eventual handover of airport operations to the Iraqi Airport Commission Authority.

Accomplishments to Date:

- Processing an average of 20 non-military arrivals and departures a day at Baghdad International Airport.
 - More than 5,000 military and NGO flights have arrived and departed at Baghdad International Airport since July 2003.
- Completed infrastructure work to prepare Baghdad International Airport for commercial air operations.
 - Repaired Terminal C and administration offices.

- Installed three X-ray machines.
- Installed very small aperture terminal (VSAT) communications systems and new diesel powered generators, allowing Iraqi airport control centers to communicate.
- Rehabilitated Iraqi customs office in the arrival hall.
- Rehabilitated Baghdad International Airport's East Fire Station; airport fire protection training for a team of more than 80 Iraqis is ongoing.
- Preparing Al Basrah International Airport for commercial operations. Ongoing projects include:
 - Repairing runway, taxiway, and apron striping.
 - Installing two baggage x-ray units.
 - Repairing passenger support facilities.
 - Installing VSAT satellite communications.
 - Installing security fence.
 - Repairing airport water and sewage treatment plants.
- Completed evaluation of reconstruction requirements at Mosul Airport.



Fire chief Raad al-Khalil in an Oshkosh TI-3000 Fire Truck. Photo: USAID

Bridges and Railroads -- *Objectives include: rehabilitating and repairing damaged transportation systems, especially the most economically critical networks.*

Accomplishments to Date:

Bridges:

- Demolished irreparable sections of three key bridges (Khazir, Tikrit, and Al Mat) and started reconstruction.
 - *Al Mat Bridge:* A key link on Highway 10 that carries over 3,000 trucks daily on the main route between Baghdad and Jordan.
 - Work was completed, and the four-lane bridge was reopened to two-way traffic on March 3.
 - *Khazir Bridge:* Critical to the flow of fuel and agricultural products to the north.
 - Repaired the south span of the bridge—two of the bridge's four lanes—and reopened it for two-way traffic on January 16. Complete repairs are expected by April 2004.
 - *Tikrit Bridge:* An important link for passengers and commerce over the Tigris River between Tikrit and Tuz Khurmatu.
 - On the upstream side of Pier 7, steel beams have been erected and dowels are installed. Work is expected to finish in May 2004.
- Repaired a floating bridge on the Tigris River in Al Kut, improving traffic for approximately 50,000 travelers a day.



The newly rehabilitated Al Mat Bridge was reopened on March 3. Photo: USAID

Railroads:

- Iraqi Republican Railways (IRR) contributes equipment and labor, while USAID contributes project management, material, and parts. Work on the railways includes:
 - Repairing 16 km of track at the port of Umm Qasr and 56 km of track between the port and Shuiaba Junction near Basrah to facilitate cargo shipments, including foodstocks, from the seaport to mills.
 - Completed explosive ordinance disposal at all 53 sites of the rail line project near Shuiaba Junction (Al Basrah Governorate) in preparation for installation of new track.

Umm Qasr Seaport -- Objectives include: managing port administration, coordinating transport from the seaport, and facilitating cargo-handling services such as warehousing, shipment tracking, and storage.

Accomplishments to Date:

- Reopened to commercial traffic June 17; completed first passenger vessel test on July 16.
- Offloading cargo from more than 50 cargo ships per month.
- Dredged the port to an average depth of 12.5 meters. Previously, the port was 9-10 meters deep, and limited cargo could arrive only during high tide.
 - An Iraqi dredger, which has been rehabilitated by USAID, will assist in maintaining the harbor.
- Renovated grain-receiving facility, which can process up to 600 metric tons of grain an hour.
- Instituted interim port tariffs, which provide a revenue stream for financially sustainable port operations.
- Installed generators, energizing all three 11-kv ring mains which distribute electricity throughout the port.
- Completed security fencing at the old and new ports and grain facility.
- Completed the renovation of the administration building, passenger terminal and customs hall building and continuing the renovation of the electrical substations.
- Employing 500 Iraqi staff, the majority of which are in the Marine Department of the Port Authority.



A ship unloads at Umm Qasr grain-receiving facility. Photo: USAID

Telecommunications -- Objectives include: installing switches to restore service to 240,000 telephone lines in Baghdad area, and repairing the nation's fiber optic network from north of Mosul through Baghdad and Nasiriyah to Umm Qasr.

Accomplishments to Date:

- Handed over the Al Mamoun Telecommunications site to the Ministry of Communications on February 26. Twelve new telephone switches and an International Satellite Gateway have been integrated with fourteen Iraqi Telephone and Postal Company switches.
- Purchased tools, equipment, and parts to enable Iraqi engineers to restore the network.
 - Audited over 1,200 km of the fiber optic backbone network.
 - Repairing the national fiber optic network from Mosul to Umm Qasr, connecting 20 cities to Baghdad.
- Reconstituting Baghdad area phone service by installing switches with 240,000 lines of capacity. Installed new switches and main distribution frames at 12 sites.
- Baghdad's largest exchange, Al Mamoun, opened on December 13. Over 100,000 individual subscriber lines are now active; work to allow final activation for all subscribers is underway.
 - The Ministry of Communications has brought in additional workers from outside Baghdad to expand the line-splicing workforce and accelerate progress.
- Completed installation of a satellite gateway system at Al Mamoun and restored international calling service to Iraq on December 30.
- Training Iraqi Telephone and Postal Company operators and engineers at Al Mamoun on telecommunications site operations, maintenance, and repairs.

Accomplishments to Date:

- *Nationwide:* Rehabilitating sewage and water treatment plants that are currently by-passing untreated sewage generated by millions of people into the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.
 - Repairing and rehabilitating water systems throughout central and southern Iraq.
 - Repaired hundreds of critical breaks in Iraq’s water network immediately after the war, significantly increasing water flow.
- *Baghdad:* Expanding one water plant and rehabilitating three sewage plants.
 - Rehabilitating and adding 45 percent capacity to Baghdad’s Sharkh Dijlah water plant (previously named Saba Nissan water plant), adding an additional 225,000 cubic meters a day to the water supply by May 2004, mostly in the overpopulated eastern sections.
 - Installing back-up electrical generators at 41 Baghdad water facilities and pumping stations to ensure continuous water supply.
 - Rehabilitating Baghdad’s sewage treatment plants—Rustimiyah North, Rustimiyah South, and Kerkh to benefit 3.8 million people by October 2004.
 - Rehabilitated 70 of Baghdad’s non-functioning waste pumping stations.
- *South Central:* Rehabilitating one water plant and four sewage plants.
 - Rehabilitating An Najaf municipal water treatment plant. The project will be completed by June 2004.
 - Rehabilitating Ad Diwaniyah and Karbala’ sewage treatment plants, which serve 200,000 residents and currently discharge untreated waste into the Euphrates River. These projects are expected to be completed by May 2004 and October 2004, respectively.
 - Rehabilitating An Najaf and Al Hillah sewage treatment plants to serve 194,000 residents. These projects are expected to be completed by December 2004 and April 2004, respectively.
- *South:* Rehabilitating the entire Sweet Water Canal system, including the canal and its reservoir, 14 water treatment plants and pumping stations, and the Safwan water system
 - The system provides drinking water to 1.75 million residents of Basrah City. It had been operating at less than half capacity.
 - Rehabilitated and removed 34,000 cubic meters of sand and silt from the west lobe of the settling-reservoir of the Canal, allowing it to be refilled with clean water.
 - Began work on Sweet Water’s 14 water treatment plants in January. By summer 2004, water quality and volume will surpass prewar levels.
 - Completed the restoration of the Safwan water system. All 40,000 residents now have access to potable drinking water.
- *North:* Rehabilitating two water plants and a solid waste collection system.
 - Constructing 400 solid waste collection points in Kirkuk (At’ Tamim Governorate) to improve sanitation.
 - Rehabilitating Mosul and Kirkuk water treatment facilities.



Loaders remove accumulated silt from a settling reservoir. Photo: Thomas Hartwell

Highlights this Week:

- Cleaning of the east settling reservoir at the Sweet Water Canal is nearly complete; the reservoir will be refilled in April. Reservoir cleanup began in early October; the west reservoir was complete in December.
- Work on the emergency electrical generator being rehabilitated by USAID at Karkh water treatment plant, located 50 km north of Baghdad, is complete. The generator has the capacity to generate 8 MW of power

and will bring total plant generation to 16 MW. The Karkh water treatment plant supplies over 60 percent of the potable water supply for the city of Baghdad.

2. Support Essential Health and Education

Health -- Objectives include: supporting a reformed Iraqi Ministry of Health, delivering essential health services, funding vaccines and high protein biscuits for pregnant and lactating women and malnourished children, establishing a rapid referral and response system for the most serious cases, 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.

Accomplishments to Date:

- Procured more than 30 million doses of vaccines since July with support from the Ministry of Health and UNICEF.
- Vaccinated three million children under the age of five through the Expanded Immunization Program since June 2003. USAID will provide vaccines for a total of 4.2 million children under five and 700,000 pregnant women.
- Continuing a monthly catch-up immunization campaign with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health with 4,000 health workers and 124 supervisors.
- Awarding \$1.8 million in small grants to support Iraqi NGO healthcare efforts throughout Iraq.
- Developing a hospital and clinic facility database for the Ministry of Health on facility type, location, service distribution, cost information, and building condition.
- Renovated 52 primary health care clinics and re-equipping over 600 to provide essential primary healthcare services.
- Trained 340 master trainers in 18 governorates who are training more than 2,000 primary healthcare providers to treat and prevent acute respiratory infections and diarrheal diseases.
- Distributed high-protein supplementary food rations to more than 240,000 pregnant and nursing mothers and malnourished children.
- Evaluated 18 national and regional public health laboratories for equipment needs.
- Rehabilitated the National Polio Laboratory.
- Training more than 1,000 health workers and volunteers to identify, treat and monitor the growth of acutely malnourished children.
- Working with the Iraqi Ministry of Health to develop a strategic plan to reduce child mortality and increase the level of preventative care available to the Iraqi people through assistance to their nine working groups which address: public health, health care delivery, health information systems, pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and equipment, health care finance, education and training, human resources, legislation and regulation, and licensing and accreditation.
- Distributing 1.4 million liters of clean water each day to people in the cities of Al Basrah, Al Muthanna', Kirkuk, and Mosul.



Essential primary health care equipment is being delivered to clinics throughout Iraq.
Photo: USAID

Highlights this Week:

- More than 230 primary health care providers participated in training on primary health care techniques in five different cities. The courses covered state-of-the-art clinical practices in primary health care with an emphasis on maternal and child health care.

- USAID is assisting disability centers that support education, social activities, and vocational training for approximately 8,000 disabled persons in Mosul, Iraq's second largest city. USAID is supporting emergency winterization of the disability centers by providing heaters, winter clothing, floor rugs, and one daily hot meal for three months and is providing general disability aids such as wheelchairs, crutches, and specialized furniture.

Education -- *Objectives include: increasing enrollment and improving the quality of primary and secondary education, ensuring that classrooms have sufficient materials, facilitating community involvement, training teachers, implementing accelerated learning programs, and establishing partnerships between U.S. and Iraqi colleges and universities.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- *Immediately After the Conflict*
 - Provided technical assistance for the resumption of the Ministry of Education functions and salaries.
 - Funded 5.5 million examinations for transitional grades, which ensured the smooth continuation of school.
 - Surveyed secondary schools in all permissive areas of the country (4,541 participants total).
- *Facilities and Supplies*
 - Awarded 627 grants worth more than \$6 million to rehabilitate schools and equip Directorates General.
 - Rehabilitated 2,360 schools countrywide for the first term of the 2003/04 school year.
 - Provided materials, equipment and supplies:
 - Distributed nearly 1.5 million secondary school kits that include pens, pencils, paper, math equipment, and other supplies.
 - Distributed 159,005 student desks, 26,437 teacher desks, 59,940 teacher chairs, 26,050 metal cabinets, 61,500 chalkboards, and 58,100 teacher kits.
 - Delivered 808,000 primary student kits.
 - Delivered 81,735 primary teacher kits.
 - In consultation with the Iraqi Ministry of Education, reviewed 48 math and science textbooks for grades 1 through 12.
 - Printed and distributed 8,759,260 textbooks throughout Iraq.
- *Institutional Strengthening*
 - Trained 860 secondary school Master Trainers during September 2003 to January 2004 nationwide.
 - Trained 31,772 secondary school teachers and administration staff.
 - Conducting an accelerated learning program in Baghdad, Nasiriyah, Ad Diwaniyah, Karbala', and Arbil. More than 600 students are participating in the program. In February 2004, the students completed mid-term exams.
- *Higher Education*
 - USAID participated in the bi-national Fulbright scholarship review committee set up by the CPA. The Fulbright Scholarship Program returned to Iraq after a 14-year absence. The program awarded at least 25 scholarships for Iraqis to study in the United States in 2004.
 - Launched the Higher Education and Development Program. Awarded five grants worth an estimated \$20.7 million for U.S.-Iraqi university partnerships:
 - A consortium led by Research Foundation of the State University of New York at Stony Brook partnering with Baghdad University, Al Mustansiriyah University/Baghdad, Basrah University, and Mosul University in archeology and environmental health.



Karbala' Accelerated Learning student Marwa Adnan uses a new chalkboard furnished by USAID. Photo: USAID

- The University of Hawaii College of Agriculture and Human Resources partnering with the University of Mosul Hamam Al-Alil and University of Dahuk for strengthening academic, research, and extension programs.
- The Human Rights Institute at DePaul University College of Law and the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences (Italy) partnering with Universities of Baghdad, Basrah, and Sulaimanyah on legal education reform.
- Jackson State University/MCID has partnered with University of Mosul, University of Dahuk, and the Nursing Institute (Dahuk) for public health and sanitation.
- The University of Oklahoma and consortia has partnered with the Technology University/Baghdad, Al Anbar University, Basrah University, University of Babil, and the University of Salah ad Din in higher education initiatives.

3. Expand Economic Opportunity

Economic Growth -- Objectives include: currency conversion and development of economic statistics, small businesses credits, commercial legislation, a national employment program, micro-finance programs, a bank-to-bank payment system, a computerized financial management information system, tax policy and administration, budget planning, insurance, telecommunications reform, and electricity reform.

Accomplishments to Date:

- Worked with the Ministry of Finance to introduce the new national currency, the Iraqi dinar.
 - The currency exchange began on October 15 2003, and was completed on January 15 2004.
 - All of the 6.36 trillion new Iraqi dinars are now in country, and 4.62 trillion Iraqi dinars are in circulation—106 percent of the original demand estimate of 4.36 trillion.
- Conducting a daily currency auction for banks to exchange dinars and dollars.
- Created more than 77,000 public works jobs through the National Employment Program.
- Provided technical assistance on the implementation of a bank-to-bank payment system that allows 80 banks to send and receive payment instructions.
- In support of the Iraqi Treasury's goal to improve Iraq's commercial banking system, USAID is working with the CPA to reconcile and close the year-end 2003 financial statements of Iraq's two largest banks—the state-owned Rasheed and Rafidain—to ensure that the statements are consistent with international accounting standards.
- Assisting in developing, installing, and training staff to use the Financial Management Information System, a new accounting and reporting system that will eventually be used by all Iraqi treasury offices and ministries.
- Assisting CPA in managing a \$21-million microcredit program.
- Supporting CPA's Oil for Food (OFF) Program in planning, program management, logistics, database applications, and communications to support the CPA OFF Coordination Center in the north and south.
- Evaluating and updating commercial laws pertaining to private sector and foreign investment; assisted in the development of the new Company Law.
- Assisted in developing the reconstruction levy in collaboration with the CPA and the UK Customs Service, which imposes a five percent reconstruction levy on imports beginning April 1, 2004.



The currency exchange began on October 15 and now all of the 6.36 trillion new Iraqi dinars are in country. Photo: USAID

Highlights this Week:

- A baseline assessment of the Iraqi government's Information Technology (IT) system is complete and has indicated a lack of coordination of information systems between Ministries. Planning for a reform of the IT system is underway and will create a standardized operating system with centralized management of information across all Ministries. The new system will include integrated e-mail and Internet systems; common applications for functions such as human resources, payroll, and accounts payable and receivable; facilities for a Centralized Data Center; and standardized information security policies and guidelines.
- Preliminary planning for Iraq's fiscal year 2005 budget has begun and a target date of June 1, 2004, has been set for completion of the budget. A list of economic parameters, including gross domestic product, consumer price index, and interest rates, has been established as a basis for the budget. Data collection for all the parameters has commenced with assistance from USAID.
- Revisions to Iraq's Company Law have been approved by the Minister of Finance and the Finance and Planning Committee of the Iraqi Governing Council and promulgated by the CPA as Order 64. This new legislation is an amendment to Iraq's existing Company Law and will facilitate the conduct and financing of all privately held businesses in Iraq, including foreign companies.
- Planning for USAID's Firm-Level Assistance Program is complete and program activity is commencing. To date, more than 200 firms have applied to the CPA Office of Private Sector Development to participate in the program. This activity will provide technical assistance to small-and medium-sized Iraqi companies in developing business plans for business loan applications.

Food Security -- *Objectives include: providing oversight support for the countrywide public distribution system, which provides basic food and non-food commodities to an estimated 25 million Iraqis, participating in the design of a monetary assistance program to replace the commodity-based distribution system to support local production and free-market infrastructure, and promoting comprehensive agriculture reform to optimize private participation in production and wholesale markets.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- Worked with the UN World Food Program (WFP) and Coalition Forces to re-establish Iraq's public distribution system in less than 30 days, avoiding a humanitarian food crisis and maintaining food security.
- Contributed cash and food aid in the amount of \$425 million to WFP's emergency operations immediately following the conflict, making the United States the foremost contributor to WFP emergency operations in Iraq.
- Placed food specialists in Baghdad, Al Basrah, Al Hillah, and Arbil to support food operations immediately after the conflict.
- Provided ongoing support and technical assistance to WFP and local Iraqi authorities in the Ministry of Trade and the Kurdish Food Departments to ensure the smooth transition of public distribution system management tasks to the Iraqi government. Special attention was given to the transition phase in the northern governorates of Dahuk, As Sulaymaniyah, and Arbil. The initial handover of responsibilities occurred on November 21 without significant problems.
- Played a role in negotiating a memorandum of understanding between the CPA, the Ministry of Trade, and the World Food Program that details WFP's areas of responsibility to include: capacity building and training, procurement of food commodities, the renegotiation of certain food contracts, shipment and overland transport of food commodities, and pipeline management. The World Food Program will continue to assist with supporting the public distribution system through June 2004 and will begin work immediately to assure continuation of food deliveries.



Iraqi food agents from receiving ration commodities from the public food distributions. Photo: USAID

- Currently providing food aid expertise to CPA and Ministry of Trade in Baghdad and assisting with the CPA OFF Coordination Center as WFP and CPA and the Ministry continue to distribute food to all Iraqis.

Agriculture -- *Objectives include: expanding agricultural productivity, restoring the capacity of agroenterprises to produce, process, and market agricultural goods and services, nurturing access to rural financial services, and improving land and water resource management.*

Accomplishments to Date:

Since October 2003, USAID partner DAI has been implementing the Agricultural Reconstruction and Development Program for Iraq (ARDI) to formulate a long-term vision for the sector, while designing activities for quick impact including:

- *Winter Crop Technology Demonstrations:* On 334 hectares in 15 governorates, 128 farm families are establishing plots with new crop varieties for extension field days.
- *Kirkuk Veterinary Hospital Renovation:* Fifty communities will benefit from a \$96,000 grant to renovate a hospital that serves more than 100,000 livestock in the area.
- *Taza and Rashad Veterinary Clinic Rehabilitation:* A \$50,000 grant will be matched by supplies and equipment from the Ministry of Agriculture. These rural clinics are the two principal sources of vaccines and medicines for animals in 125 local communities.
- *Internet Connectivity and Repairs to a Student Union Building:* The Baghdad University School of Agriculture will receive a \$75,000 grant that will benefit 4,509 students.
- Seven grants, totaling \$394,000, were approved February 2004 to build the capacity of Iraq's agriculture sector. The grants' emphasis on veterinary programs allows an immediate, highly visible response to the challenges that face herders and farmers in the North and Central regions.
- The Ministry of Agriculture is establishing 18 date palm nurseries throughout Iraq in support of its goal to reestablish Iraq's dominant position in the international date market, a position it lost under the former regime. Dates are a national treasure for Iraq with both symbolic and economic significance. This project, which receives support and technical assistance from USAID, will ensure the preservation of Iraq's 621 varieties of date palm.



Winter Crop Technology Demonstration using recommended supplemental irrigation.
Photo: USAID

Highlights this Week:

- Scientists from the Ministry of Agriculture visited the Winter Crop Technology Demonstration where it was observed that plots with supplemental irrigation were growing significantly better than those without, and that the demonstration fields were well maintained, showing the farmers' dedication to the project.
- Progress is continuing on the renovation of Kirkuk Veterinary Hospital under a \$96,000 grant from USAID's Agriculture Reconstruction and Development Program for Iraq (ARDI). The hospital's staff of 70 people serves more than 100,000 sheep, goats, and cattle from 50 local communities. The grant for the rehabilitation of the hospital was approved in December 2003 and the project is expected to be complete by early May 2004.

Marshlands -- *Objectives include: construct environmental, social and economic baselines for the remaining and former marshlands, assist marsh dwellers by creating economic opportunities and viable social institutions, improve the management of marshlands, and expand restoration activities.*

Program Goals:

- The \$4-million Marshland Restoration and Management Program will promote wetlands restoration and provide social and economic assistance to marsh dwellers. Initiatives include:
 - Creating a hydraulic model of the marshes to improve water management.
 - Equipping a soil and water quality lab at the new Center for Iraq Marshlands Restoration.
 - Implementing pilot projects to improve treatment of waste and drinking water.
 - Providing social-economic assistance through job- and income-generating activities in fisheries, aquaculture, livestock production, and date-palm reproduction.
 - Monitoring water quality in reflooded sites.
 - Extending healthcare services to marsh dwellers.
 - Building local capacity by partnering with Iraqi institutions such as the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of the Environment, the University of Basrah College of Agriculture, the AMAR Charitable Trust, and the Iraq Foundation, and the governments of Canada, Italy, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

4. Improve Efficiency and Accountability of Government

Local Governance -- *Objectives include: promoting diverse and representative citizen participation in provincial, municipal and local councils, strengthening the management skills of city and provincial administrations, local interim representative bodies, and civic institutions to improve the delivery of essential municipal services, promoting effective advocacy and participation of civil society organizations, enhancing leadership skills, and serving as a recruiting tool for future leaders.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- Implementing local governance activities in 18 governorates. More than 20 million Iraqis engage in policy discourse through local government entities and civil society organizations to:
 - Enhance transparency and participation in local decision-making processes.
 - Restore basic services.
 - Improve the effectiveness of local service delivery.
 - Establish, develop, and expand the number of civil society organizations that can interact with local government entities.
- Established 16 governorate councils, 78 district councils, 192 city or sub-district councils, and 392 neighborhood councils.
- Awarded \$13.4 million to government agencies and civil society organizations to strengthen the capacity of municipal authorities to deliver core municipal services.
- Committed \$2.4 million to support the CPA's nationwide Civic Education Campaign.
- Supporting preparation of 2004 city council budgets in Mosul, Al Hillah, Babil, and An Najaf.
- Recruited more than 400 democracy facilitators to help Iraqis prepare for the transition.



Youth conference participants preparing for a presentation. Photo: USAID

Highlights this Week:

- On March 15 and 16, the Iraqi NGO Just Read and USAID presented a National Agenda Dialogue Conference in Baghdad for more than 200 young adults from all parts of Iraq. The conference touched on a variety of subjects as they pertain to youth including democracy, religion, media, education, and women's issues.
- As part of the CPA's Civic Education Campaign, USAID is conducting Democracy Dialogue Activities that will improve public understanding of the transition to democracy and increase participation in the

political process. More than 60 Iraqis completed trainings in three cities, learning to facilitate groups, relay information, and provide detailed feedback. They also learned about different forms of government and governing bodies, election processes, rights of minorities, and the Iraqi constitution.

- USAID is training local councils in At' Tamim Governorate to improve their internal operations. The training includes team building, principals of decision making, priority setting, action planning, voting procedures, and management technique. Over the past week, more than 25 members of the Rashad, Laylan, and Taza District Councils have received training.
- Nineteen members of the district and sub-district councils in Al Muthanna' completed a five-day intensive computer training course facilitated by USAID that focused on using Internet search engines, e-mail, and Microsoft Word and Excel.

Transition Initiatives -- *Objectives include: building and sustaining Iraqi confidence in the transition to a participatory, stable, and democratic Iraq and working closely with the CPA, USAID's Iraq Transition Initiative assists Iraqi NGOs, national government institutions, and local governments to increase Iraqi support for the transition to sovereignty through quick-dispersing, high impact small grants.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- Awarded 645 small grants totaling more than \$43 million for quick impact activities that support good governance, civil society, conflict management and mitigation, and human rights and transitional justice.
- Supporting initiatives crucial to the democratic transition, including civic education, civil society and media development, increased women's participation, conflict mitigation, and transitional justice. Groups targeted for assistance include women's and youth groups, professional associations, and human rights organizations.
- Met critical needs during 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.
- Awarded two grants worth \$475,000 to the Ministry of Human Rights for the rehabilitation of buildings to house the National Evidence Storage Facility (NESF). The NESF will serve as a venue to analyze recovered documents and store forensic evidence of mass graves and human rights abuses of the Ba'ath government. The facility is part of a larger effort to help build Iraq's capacity to investigate complex crimes and implement international law enforcement best practices.



Newly renovated Basta Piazza Children's Center in Arbil. Photo: USAID

Highlights this Week:

- With support from USAID, a senior delegation of Iraqi women representing the Iraqi Governing Council, Iraqi Higher Women's Council, and prominent Iraqi civil society organizations traveled to the United States. The women attended the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Conference in New York on March 1 through 12 and met with senior U.S. government officials in Washington D.C.
- USAID has approved grants for the delivery of furniture and equipment to 10 Governing Council Outreach Centers located throughout Iraq. The centers facilitate communications between the Governing Council and the Iraqi people and improve understanding of the country's developing political process.
- The Ministry of Municipality and Tourism has received grants from USAID to rehabilitate three playgrounds in Arbil. These projects will clean the sites, build fences around the gardens, install playground equipment, provide a safe environment for neighborhood children, and create temporary employment opportunities.
- A grant under the Iraq Transition Initiative is providing office and communication equipment to the Iraq Center for Dialogue, Reconciliation, and Peace. This center was established by a group of religious

- leaders from across the country to decrease tensions among religious groups. The organization will improve communications, foster religious freedom, and mitigate conflict among various religious groups.
- The renovation of the Boys Orphanage in Kuran, Arbil is complete. Children in Iraq's Kurdish region suffered under the 35-year rule of the former regime. Many were orphaned by attacks such as the one in Anfal in 1988 which led to the demolition of more than 4500 villages in the north and the disappearance of more than 180,000 persons. The orphanage was built in 1972 and was renovated in 2000 by the Kurdish Regional Governmental.
 - With the support of a grant under the Iraq Transition Initiatives program, the Iraq Property Claims Commission is opening an office in Qadisiyah Governorate to help current and returning residents solve property disputes in a timely manner.

Community Action Program -- Objectives include: promoting diverse, representative citizen participation in and among communities to identify, prioritize, and satisfy critical community needs, while utilizing local resources. CAP is implemented by five U.S. NGOs with offices in nine major Iraqi cities. Each concentrates on one region in Iraq: ACDI/VOCA (North), International Relief and Development--IRD (Baghdad), Cooperative Housing Foundation International--CHF (Southwest Central), Mercy Corps (Southeast Central), and Save the Children (South).

Accomplishments to Date:

- Established more than 650 Community Action Groups in 16 governorates. The projects undertaken by these groups are part of a campaign targeting grassroots democratic development.
- CAP has committed \$49.2 million for 1,365 community projects across Iraq; 800 projects have already been completed.
- Iraqi communities have contributed \$15.8 million to community projects. Contributions have included labor, land, buildings, and other in-kind assistance.
- ACDI/VOCA focuses on the conflict prone areas of Mosul, Kirkuk, the area northwest of Baghdad, and the Iran-Iraq border. Their work bringing communities together has resulted in 141 completed projects and another 144 are in development. These include establishing a youth center in Huwija and establishing a new local water supply in Tikrit.
- CHF has established a strong presence in the communities of the Shi'a holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, as well as Hillah by establishing very active community associations. An emphasis on critical infrastructure has provided these communities with access roads, sewage and water rehabilitation, school repairs, and swamp clean-up in addition to vital social infrastructure such as community centers and sports clubs. They have completed 99 projects.
- IRD has completed 200 projects with another 105 projects in development. IRD is focusing increasingly on income and employment generation to address these critical needs around Baghdad.
- Mercy Corps has completed 89 projects and has 93 more in development. These projects focus on water, sewage, community clean-up, and school rehabilitation.
- Save the Children has completed 271 projects in the south, which include about 40 percent female membership. Projects have focused primarily on immediate community needs such as sewage clean up, water treatment and distribution, public health, and girls' access to education.



AL-Ashbal School in Bada'at Aswad in Karbala' Governorate (after). Photo: USAID

Highlights this Week:

- Re-equipping a health center in Baghdad's Taji district with laboratory materials, a dental x-ray unit, and sterilizers. The center's 20 doctors will provide basic care, lab tests, and dental services to roughly 5,000 local residents and will carry out community health awareness campaigns with a special focus on women.

- Completed a project to install street lighting on the main roads and alleyways of Al-Ta'awun, a neighborhood in Karbala'. The neighborhood suffered from rising crime levels and the local market had to shut down by sunset, resulting in the deterioration of the local economy and increased unemployment. The project, which was initiated in December 2003, was completed on January 20, 2004 and is benefitting 24,750 community members.
- Residents of the village of Khairi in Qadissiyah Governorate have completed a project to connect all the houses to the area's main public water system. Six similar water projects were also completed recently under the Community Action Program in Arouba, Tamim, Thani, Hay al Wehda, Al Asri, Al Hussein, and Al Shafiya. Khairi is located 3 km from Diwaniyah with a population of 2,000, more than half of which immigrated to the area from the greater south while fleeing the Iran-Iraq war.

USAID Iraq Reconstruction Financial Summary

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2003-2004*				
RECONSTRUCTION				
USAID/ANE			Subtotal:	\$2,575,019,155
	Abt Associates	Health	Countrywide	\$20,995,000
	AFCAP	Logistics	Countrywide	\$91,500,000
	Army Corps of Engineers	Architecture and Engineering services	Countrywide	\$16,500,000
	BearingPoint	Economic Governance	Countrywide	\$47,500,000
	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	Countrywide	\$809,521,939
	Community Action Program	Development in impoverished communities	Countrywide	\$70,000,000
	DAI	Marshlands	Dhi Qar Al Basrah Maysan	\$4,000,000
	DAI	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$8,397,156
	Fed Source	Personnel Support	Countrywide	\$163,572
	IRG	Reconstruction Support	Countrywide	\$29,087,094
	RTI	Local Governance	Countrywide	\$236,911,000
	CAII	Education	Countrywide	\$56,503,000
	UNICEF	Health, Water, and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$36,700,000
	UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$19,600,000
	UNESCO	Textbook Printing and Distribution: Math and Science	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
	WHO	Strengthen Health System	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
	SSA	Port Management	Umm Qasr	\$14,318,985
	SkyLink	Airport Management	Baghdad Al Basrah Mosul	\$27,200,000
	MSI	Monitoring and Evaluation	Countrywide	\$5,500,000
	University Partners	Consortium led by the Research Foundation of the State University of	Baghdad University, Al Mustansiriyah	\$20,730,000

		New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook which includes Columbia University, Boston University and Oxford University (England), University of Hawaii, DePaul University College of Law and the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences in Siracusa, Italy; and Jackson State University and the Mississippi Consortium for International Development; and Oklahoma State University.	University in Baghdad, Mosul University, Mosul University's College of Agriculture and Forestry in Hamam al-Alil, Basrah University, Al-Anbar University, and University of Salahaddin.	
	Yankee Group	Telecoms Planning	Countrywide	\$58,150
	UNDP	Trust Fund Contribution	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
	World Bank	Trust Fund Contribution	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
EMERGENCY RELIEF				
USAID/DCHA/OFDA				\$100,699,384
	Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$7,294,561
	AirServ	Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,309,876
	ARC	Capacity building, Disaster support	Al Basrah	\$537,746
	The Cuny Center	Research studies	Countrywide	\$40,260
	GOAL	Coordination, Nutrition	Al Muthanna'	\$1,507,900
	International Dispensary Association	Health	Countrywide	\$1,284,972
	InterAction	Coordination	Kuwait City	\$92,860
	IOM	IDP programs	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
	Logistics	Commodities and DART support	Countrywide	\$20,902,534
	UNICEF	Health, nutrition, water/sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
	UN OCHA	Coordination and Information	Countrywide	\$1,450,000
	USAID Amman	Support for emergency water activities	Countrywide	\$500,000
	WFP	Logistics and pre-positioning of food	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
	IMC	Food Security, Health, Nutrition, Water/Sanitation, Capacity building	Countrywide	\$13,702,900
	IRC	Health, Water/Sanitation	Countrywide	\$6,198,685
	Mercy Corps	Health, Non-Food Items, Shelter, Water/Sanitation	Countrywide	\$7,000,000
	SCF/US	Food Security, Health, Shelter, Nutrition, Non-Food Items, Water/Sanitation, NGO Consortium	Countrywide	\$6,883,131
	World Vision	Health, Logistics, Non-Food Items, Water/Sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,993,959
	CARE	Quick-impact projects, Water/Sanitation, Health, Blankets	Countrywide	\$9,000,000
USAID/DCHA/FFP				\$425,571,000
	WFP	Operations	Countrywide	\$45,000,000
	WFP	Emerson Trust – 81,500 MT	Countrywide	\$40,337,000
	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities – 163,820 MT	Countrywide	\$140,234,000
	WFP	Regional Purchase – 330,000 MT	Countrywide	\$200,000,000
USAID/DCHA/OTI.....				\$104,269,938

	Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$2,976,668
	IOM	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$10,587,595
	DAI	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$80,000,000
	Internews	Media	Countrywide	\$160,359
	Radio SAWA	Media	Countrywide	\$400,000
	NDI/IRI	National Governance	Countrywide	\$400,000
	IFES	National Governance	Countrywide	\$1,042,315
	Spa War**	Inter-Ministry Communications	Countrywide	\$8,703,001
TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ IN FY 2003/2004				\$3,108,262,321

* 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.