



RECONSTRUCTION WEEKLY UPDATE

March 24, 2005



Iraqi educators participated in capacity building workshops. USAID's Education II project trained over 3,000 educators.

Contents:

Electricity	2	Local Governance	8
Water and Sanitation	3	National Governance	9
Education	4	Transition Initiatives	10
Economic Governance	5	Community Action Program	11
Agriculture	6	Completed Activities	12
Health	7	Financial Summary	13

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.

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

Work is continuing on the refurbishment of two units at a large thermal power station in Baghdad. The station's four steam boilers and turbines were each designed to produce 160 MW; however, due to lack of maintenance, the plant is now operating in the 160-170 MW range, far below its full-load rating of 640 MW.

The project employs 310 Iraqi workers and covers the rehabilitation of both turbines, the replacement of boiler and turbine controls with a modern, sustainable system, and the refurbishment of the 132kV switchyard. The project also includes rehabilitation of water intake screens, auxiliary mechanical equipment and electrical equipment, electrical cabling, electrical raceways, cable trays and control systems. Upon completion, an additional 320 MW is projected to be available for Baghdad's electrical grid. This project is now 85 percent finished and scheduled for completion this summer.

A project rehabilitating power substations will improve the distribution and reliability of electricity for more than two million Baghdad residential and commercial consumers. All site assessments have been completed and concrete work is moving forward on a project to rehabilitate 13 existing 33kv – 11kv substations and install 24 new substations in Baghdad. While the work is underway, four new mobile substations have been deployed to provide temporary power. Overall work is 59 percent finished and is scheduled for completion by the end of this year.



Iraq workers are installing 24 power substations in Baghdad, improving electricity reliability for 2 million Iraqis.

Work is nearing completion on the restoration of electrical facilities at Baghdad International Airport; when work is complete, the generators at the airport will produce enough electricity to meet operating needs, reducing the burden on the national grid. The project includes the refurbishment of an 11kV distribution system to facilitate management and control of generation and load. The BIAP electrical system consists of three 33kV power transformers, 11kV and 400 V distribution systems, five diesel generators, and numerous small emergency generators. Its electrical generation output design range is 18 to 22.3 MW. The project is now 86 percent complete.

Since their work began at the airport in May 2003, USAID repaired the airport terminal and administration offices, installed communication systems, rehabilitated customs offices, and repaired passenger support facilities.

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

Workers are installing lift pumps and pouring concrete foundations as work moves forward on the refurbishment of a water treatment plant in Karbala.

The plant is located in the city center, near one of Shia Islam's holiest shrines. In addition to providing water to city residents, the plant provides potable water to an estimated three million Shia pilgrims. Some of the plant's processing trains were becoming overloaded by solid-laden influent. Marginal disinfection was effective with most bacteria, but less effective with pathogens that cause amoebic dysentery, a public health risk.



Refurbishment of a water treatment plant in Karbala will supply safe water and improve sanitation.

Because it was in such a dire state of disrepair, the project originally called for the replacement of the original clarifiers rather than repair, but local governing authorities disagreed. A compromise was reached to install compact clarifier units adjacent to the existing clarifiers, allowing for future rehabilitation of the existing plant. This project will install 10 compact clarifier units, each with a flow capacity of 400 cubic meters per hour. The project will also enlarge the existing inlet works and associated pump station.

Recently, work continued to install concrete reinforcing steel bar, formwork, and concrete at the compact units' foundations. At the intake work facility, installation of a new low lift pump and refurbishing of piping and valves is ongoing. The project is now 14 percent finished and is expected to be complete in September 2005.

Local Governance Program (LGP) staff in south central Iraq recently completed a three week contracting workshop for 15 technicians from the Wasit Directorate of Sewage. Session topics included opening, analyzing and selecting bids, initiating projects, forming project supervisory committees, an overview of construction from start to finish, and record-keeping for project completion and post-project archives.

Iraqi sewage departments will be proposing hundreds of millions of dollars of construction in new sewage infrastructure capacity in the coming years to replace ageing equipment; most of that construction will be done by private contractors. A thorough understanding of transparent bidding, the objective selection of winning bids, and binding legal contracts is essential to promote representative, responsive, and accountable government.

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

Iraqi secondary school students welcomed the delivery of 137,112 Education Kits containing basic school supplies. Each kit contains 10 Arabic exercise books, one English exercise book, one drawing book, one lab notebook, one drawing set, 12 pencils, four pencil sharpeners, four erasers, and one ruler. They are now being distributed among 2,014 secondary schools throughout Iraq. The provision of basic school supplies is a component of USAID's Education II program.

During the past month, the Education II project also trained more than 3,000 educators in 32 workshops throughout Iraq that covered topics ranging from capacity building within the Ministry of Education to improved teaching techniques for primary school teachers.

A technical university in Baghdad now boasts a brand new internet center that includes 20 new computers, an integrated main server network, an internet satellite dish, and an instructor office thanks to USAID's Higher Education and Development (HEAD) program partner, the University of Oklahoma. This technology will support academic specialties such as engineering, construction science, metallurgy, and computer science. Under the same grant, a university library in the Al Hillah governorate which had been severely looted now has books, computers, tables, chairs, and an electronic library database through the support of the HEAD program.

160 Iraqi university faculty members and representatives of agricultural institutions participated in seven recent professional development and strategic planning workshops. The workshop component of HEAD activities in the agriculture sector is intended as a fast-track effort to enhance the overall quality of agricultural higher education administration, instruction/curriculum, and research at several Iraqi universities. Topics included agricultural statistics and experimental design, technology transfer, soil and water sciences, and field crops, animal sciences, agricultural engineering and mechanization, and forest science. The seminars were led by 11 University of Hawaii faculty members, 14 counterpart scientists from partner institutions, the Director of the National Forestry Institute of Morocco, and an agricultural professor from the University of California at Davis. Agricultural colleges and universities can play a central role in fostering scientific research and technologies for agriculture. The research they conduct can help optimize the quantity and quality of food crops, maximize profits, and ensure the positive impact of agricultural practices on environmental quality and natural resources.

Eleven Iraqi primary school water and sanitation facilities were rehabilitated in an effort to improve child health and increase enrollment. The rehabilitation includes the replacement of all toilets, tiles, doors, and windows and the provision of new water tanks and pumps. Girls' bathrooms were also installed, enabling girls to more comfortably attend school. The work is part of a UNICEF program designed to improve the quality of educational institutes in Iraq.

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 Rafidain and Rasheed banks in six training courses.
- Assisted in management of \$21 million micro-credit program.
- Improved statistical analysis, monetary policymaking, and bank supervision procedures at Iraq's Central Bank; offered a two-week banking course to Central Bank staff with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.
- Evaluated and updated commercial laws on private sector and foreign investment.
- Assisted in developing the five percent reconstruction levy on imports; built capacity of customs officials to implement levy.
- Developed a government-wide IT strategy to support the automation of planning, budgeting and reporting processes across ministries.
- 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

In an effort to develop a competitive and efficient private sector in Iraq USAID's Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA) recently approved two \$5,000 grants. The first will enable a company that supplies construction equipment to computerize its office and provide safety equipment for employees. The second grant went to a construction subcontracting company to expand their building and purchase equipment for training new employees. Seven firms recently received technical assistance in developing written business plans.

An Iraqi women's non-governmental organization delivered a basic business skills training seminar for Iraqi businesses in As Sulaymaniyah with VEGA support. Topics included developing and writing business plans, managing finances, marketing, and business management. Twenty-eight business representatives attended the training session; 25 of the participants were women. VEGA activities are designed to ensure that Iraqi women are full participants in the emerging economic opportunities in the country.

Business training toolkits from the U.S. are now being revised for the local context prior to being translated into Arabic and Kurdish. The toolkits are designed to assist trainers in improving the skills of small business employees and owners in entrepreneurship, accounting, financial management, and other relevant topics.

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

USAID's Agriculture Reconstruction and Development for Iraq (ARDI) program provided computers, printers, copies, projectors, telephones, digital cameras, and GPS receivers, as well as training and technical assistance to develop a Statistical Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). This activity has helped to develop regional databases that include data on farmer identity, farm size, location, and the number of dunums (one dunum = ¼ acre) planted with crops and orchards. These databases serve as sampling frameworks for future statistical surveys. The accurate and timely information gathered and organized by the MOA Statistical Unit can then be used by the Ministry to develop sound agricultural policies.

A MOA survey in the As Sulaymaniyah Governorate details the current state of poultry production and will inform future MOA policy to revitalize the industry. The survey observed that poultry farms in the sample had an average mortality rate of 20 percent and that only eight percent of the farms in the sample produce year-round; many producers suspended production due to unreliable fuel and electricity supplies.

The Survey showed that the median-sized farm can hold 10,000 birds at a time, but a few farms are several times that size. Nearly all are privately owned by a single farmer. If farms were able to operate year round, they could produce a median of 51,000 birds per year. In reality, however, the median farm sold only 28,000 birds in 2004, or 53 percent of its potential capacity. Ninety-two percent of the farms sold four or fewer batches and mortality was very high. High bird mortality is the main factor for weak economic performance among poultry producers. The average producer suffered 20 percent mortality, even though nearly all producers vaccinated against diseases known to afflict poultry.

Iraqi farmers, wholesalers, and government officials are analyzing northern Iraqi produce markets to identify and assess critical constraints affecting fruit and vegetable markets. When complete, the study will recommend ways to improve the farm-to-market chain. ARDI funds this study. An ARDI representative recently visited three Iraqi wholesale produce markets. Inadequacies in sanitation, refrigeration, packing, and storage facilities all contribute to produce losses, which by some estimates can reach 25 percent. A government audit committee establishes daily price ceilings for produce in the Arbil and As Sulaymaniyah markets, while the Dahuk wholesalers set their prices competitively. Farmers in all three markets deliver directly to the wholesalers, who sell on a commission basis. ARDI also visited the largest green grocer market in Dahuk, which houses 196 grocers under one roof. The market, which is located in the center of the city to permit easy consumer access, is owned by the Dahuk municipality. The facility is old and space is limited, but the market area is clean and virtually all of the produce on display was high quality. Low quality produce is not displayed but is available to consumers unwilling to pay higher prices for top quality produce. Typical grocer margins are 25% of the wholesale price.

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

Two Iraqi universities are implementing a research project with USAID support to find preventative procedures for B-Thalassemia, a blood disease prevalent throughout Iraq. This collaborative research was made possible through USAID's Higher Education and Development (HEAD) program. The program partner, the Mississippi Consortium for International Development (MCID) led by Jackson State University (JSU), supports three Iraqi universities in the fields of public health and sanitation. The program is funding the modernization of research facilities at medical schools at these universities.

With the help of new laboratory research equipment provided by JSU/MCID, two Iraqi medical colleges began a HEAD-funded collaborative research project entitled "Molecular Basis of B-Thalassemia in Dahuk, Iraq." B-Thalassemia is a genetic blood disorder common in Iraq that results in severe anemia. The outcome of the research should establish a cost-effective, minimally labor-intensive premarital and parental DNA diagnostic program to determine the molecular basis of the hereditary disorder. The research team has already taken blood samples from 21 parents of confirmed and registered B-Thalassemia patients. They performed various blood tests, took DNA extractions, and submitted their findings.

To initiate this research, JSU/MCID procured laboratory equipment. More than \$85,000 in laboratory equipment arrived at a northern Iraqi university for its colleges of Medicine and Engineering. The equipment included two membrane filters for micro-organisms, an ion-selective electrodes analyzer, polymerase chain reaction equipment, and nuclear magnetic resonance equipment. This equipment will be accessible to students and faculty for research projects.

In an effort to modernize the research tools and resources available to universities, JSU/MCID allocated funds to improve Iraq university libraries. JSU/MCID shipped 850 nursing, engineering, and medical textbooks to two Iraqi universities. Meeting the need for a digital library and a searchable e-book repository, the library at one university also received a high-speed scanner, a double-sided printer, a new computer, and a heavy-duty paper cutter from JSU/MCID partners. By modernizing laboratories and updating libraries, the HEAD program has helped Iraqi universities to build a foundation of excellence in research that will aid in the training of Iraq's future technical engineers and medical practitioners.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

The Local Governance Program's (LGP) Finance and Administration Group is nearing completion of all its financial project activities for the Baghdad Mayoralty. A training manual on International Accounting Standards has been completed, translated into Arabic, and distributed to the Mayoralty's accounting staff. All data for a Performance Audit of Solid Waste, Water, and Sewage systems have been collected and systemized. LGP specialists reviewed the installation of computers supplied by the U.S. Army to the Mayoralty's Geographic Information Department (GID). LGP assisted the GID in the installation of GIS software (Arc Map, Arc Catalogue, and Arc Toolbox). LGP staff has also written position descriptions for the GID to support them in developing a fully functioning GIS component in the future. Developing GIS capabilities in the Mayoralty will allow for better infrastructure planning (water, sewage, storm water, garbage, energy, telecom, traffic, etc.) health planning, emergency planning, land cadastre and eventually for an electronic fee collection system in Baghdad.

The Minister of State and Provincial Affairs and USAID's LGP held a National Conference on Federalism and Decentralization from March 13-14, 2005 in downtown Baghdad. The conference was intended to generate fruitful discussions on laying the groundwork for Federalism in Iraq as part of the national referendum process and drafting of the Iraqi Constitution. Approximately 580 participants attended.

LGP sponsored the printing of all conference materials. Staff members from LGP's Policy Reform Team presented on the second day of the conference which was devoted to the formation of Local Government Associations (LGAs). This presentation was well received by conference participants and LGP staff members fielded many questions about institutionalizing LGAs. LGP will submit a comprehensive report on the conference with a more detailed overview of groups in attendance, conclusions, and recommendations.

LGP specialists in South Central Iraq recently completed a five-day Work Safety Training Course for a group of engineers and technicians in the public service directorates throughout the region. Workforce planning is still foreign in South Central Iraqi local government institutions which have grown accustomed to responding in a piece-meal way to crises during the past twenty years of non-investment in infrastructure. Planning for workforce safety is a modern management technique that can help Iraqi officials promote sustainable development that is both humane and productive.

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 elected members of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA) were inaugurated on March 16, signaling the beginning of the transitional governance period. Through its Program to Support an Iraqi National Government and Iraqi Transitional Government, USAID and its implementing partners and sub grantees have been providing training and logistical support to TNA members and staffers. Key efforts in preparation for the inauguration included:

- Working with parliamentary staff in charge of supporting inauguration and orientation activities for the 275 Assembly members
- The procurement of audio and translation equipment (Kurdish and Arabic) to be used in the parliamentary chamber
- The production in Kurdish and Arabic of a manual on parliamentary procedure
- Trainings for staff on departmental responsibilities
- Outreach specifically targeting women members of the TNA.
- Advisory assistance to the TNA's legal advisor in the drafting of new by-laws.

Over 80 staff members have undergone training and participated in the assessment of technical and skill-development needs. The program aims to fully develop the staff capacity of the TNA so that it is institutionalized in preparation for a permanent legislative body.

In an effort to facilitate civil society input into the drafting of Iraq's constitution, a USAID partner institution organized "Constitution and Governance Information Sessions" in Dahuk. On February 22, the institution chaired three round-table discussions. Groups included representatives from NGOs such as the Kurdistan Youth Union, Kurdish women's unions, the Kurdistan Journalist Association, a farmers' syndicate and an agronomist and lawyers' union. The last group included 21 participants from 21 different NGOs, including the Government Employees Association, the Teachers' Union and the Kurdistan Women's Union.

In all three meetings, USAID stressed the need to involve all Iraqis in the constitution-drafting process, by making their interests, priorities and views known, thereby having them actively contribute to the design of their own constitution. Participants were introduced to the full constitution-writing process as well as ways of involving members of society at large.

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

A cultural center in Northern Iraq recently purchased office equipment and furniture with the support of an Iraq Transition Initiatives (ITI) grant enabling them to improve their ability to disseminate information on the history and culture of their district. This region suffered greatly under Saddam Hussein's Anfal campaign, a genocide which claimed the lives of over 100,000 Kurds in 1988. With the new office equipment and furniture, the center can expand the scope and quality of services it provides to the approximately 70,000 residents of this local sub-district. The center, established in 1995, currently produces a quarterly magazine on history and culture, manages a library of 1,500 books visited daily by 150 residents, and holds a series of cultural seminars.

A non-governmental organization (NGO) in northern Iraq recently completed a three month series of English classes for 150 Iraqi women under an ITI grant. An additional ITI grant supported the purchase of office furniture and equipment for a government office serving the needs of women in central Iraq. Through this assistance, the government office has enhanced its capacity to address concerns facing Iraqi women including health, basic education, legal rights, and the new constitution.

A sub-district in northern Iraq employed community members to clean up a neighborhood that housed 1,200 displaced Iraqis. With the financial support of an ITI grant, the community members hired local residents to remove accumulated waste. In south central Iraq, a local council utilized a similar grant to initiate a neighborhood trash and debris clean-up activity, also employing residents to complete the task. Constructive employment for local residents decreases the tension and the sense of futility that arises from unemployment. It also stabilizes security by offering a productive alternative to those who may be pressured to join radical movements. This assistance from ITI increases confidence in Iraq's transition to democracy as residents see positive changes in their community brought about by the local government.

A teacher's association in south central Iraq renovated its facilities in order to establish a civic dialogue meeting room. The association advocates for teachers' rights, works to raise academic standards, publishes resource material for teachers and students, funds education research, and encourages civic dialogue workshops. The ITI grant provided a meeting room for the community to have a voice in education. The teachers association enabled an Iraqi community to strengthen civil society participation in decisions that affect the larger community.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

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

The Community Action Program (CAP) works in rural and urban communities to promote democracy and prevent and mitigate conflict. Working directly through partner NGOs and in consultation with local government representatives, USAID is creating representative, participatory community groups to identify critical priorities and implement programs to address those needs.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

A community action group (CAG) in Qadisiyah is implementing a project to rehabilitate a local school while also encouraging environmentally-minded activities. In cooperation with local mosque authorities and teachers, the CAG contributed cleaning and gardening supplies to enable students to clean the school and mosque and to plant flowers and trees in the area. This activity has helped build better relations and cooperation among the participants and the wider community, and students are taking responsibility for the appearance of their school and environment.

An institute for disabled children in Baghdad renovated its facilities with the assistance of USAID's Community Action Program (CAP). The institute is the only of its kind in Iraq providing care and education for children under the age of 12 who are mentally disabled or have cerebral palsy or neurological impairments. The institute is made up of 10 classrooms, administrative offices, a sports hall, and a physical therapy unit where children receive treatment. The \$96,947 project investment from CAP renovated the school improving the ability of the school's principal and social workers to provide quality services to moderately and severely disabled students with different levels of physical and learning ability. This facility will enable children with special needs to realize their fullest potential and to provide them with every opportunity to learn in a decent environment.

CAP provided office supplies and equipment to a girl's secondary school in Baghdad that was among the many looted and damaged during the 2003 conflict. CAP delivered office supplies and equipment worth \$21,535 to the school, including computers, printers, and furniture.

A CAP implementing partner working in Ninawa' Governorate is helping a town renovate its 12-room school. Renovating the school solved three problems: girls now have a secondary school; primary students can leave the kindergarten building and return to the regular school; and the kindergarten is able to house the dual-language kindergarten program for 65 Arab and 50 Kurdish children. The project cost \$47,051 and the community contributed \$13,300.

A local community in a Maysan Governorate municipality, with support from CAP, restored a large public park in the city. Major damages include a broken central fountain, a defective electric system, and a destroyed wire fence. The local community will contribute by installing trash containers and the municipal government will support the planting of trees and flowers. CAP intends to install environmentally friendly sodium vapor lamps to avoid transmitting ultraviolet light and to consume less power. Moreover, primary school children will plant flowers once the rehabilitation work is complete. By their contribution, these children will learn about sustaining a healthy environment in their city. A total of 100,000 people are expected to benefit from the park rehabilitation.

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 24, 2005

FY 2003-2005*			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
Reconstruction USAID/ANE			Subtotal: \$3,869,775,800
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 Al Basr Maysan	\$4,000,000
DAI	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$101,352,912
Fed Source	Personnel Support	Countrywide	\$300,000
IRG	Reconstruction Support	Countrywide	\$51,698,152
RTI	Local Governance	Countrywide	\$236,911,000
America's Development Foundation	Civil Society	Countrywide	\$42,880,157
CAII	Education	Countrywide	\$56,503,000
CAII	Education II	Countrywide	\$51,809,000
CEPPS	Iraq Governing Council	Countrywide	\$675,000
CEPPS	Transitional Government	Countrywide	\$20,700,000
CEPPS	Voter Education, Domestic Observation and Conflict Resolution	Countrywide	\$47,175,000
CEPPS	Elections Administration Support	Countrywide	\$40,000,000

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

March 24, 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"> 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
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
Emergency Relief USAID/DCHA/OFDA.....			Subtotal: \$157,615,822
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 24, 2005

FY 2003-2004			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
IMC	Health, IDP Assistance, Food Security, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, Capacity Building	Countrywide	\$28,952,898
IOM	IDP Assistance	Countrywide	\$16,392,470
IRC	IDP Assistance, Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$8,000,411
IRD	IDP Assistance, Health, Water and Sanitation	Northern Iraq	\$10,000,000
Logistics	Emergency Relief Commodities and USAID/DART Support	Countrywide	\$22,771,653
Mercy Corps	IDP Assistance, Health, Emergency Relief Commodities, Shelter, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$20,199,786
SCF/US	Food Security, Health, IDP Assistance, Shelter, Nutrition, Emergency Relief Commodities, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$7,957,783
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
OCHA	Coordination and Information	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
USAID/Jordan	Support for Emergency Water Activities	Countrywide	\$500,000
WFP	Food Security, Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
World Vision	Health, Logistics, Emergency Relief, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$6,793,739
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: \$372,029,240
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
TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ FROM 2003-2005.....			\$4,824,991,862

* 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.