



RECONSTRUCTION WEEKLY UPDATE

April 14, 2005



An Iraqi veterinary clinic rehabilitated with USAID support.

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USAID assists Iraqis in reconstructing their country by working with Iraq’s Interim Government. Programs are implemented in coordination with the United Nations, country partners, nongovernmental organizations and private sector partners.

This report highlights USAID’s overall accomplishments and recent reconstruction efforts in Iraq. For more information, please visit www.usaid.gov/iraq.

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 nearly complete on an activity allowing Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) to achieve 100 percent electrical self-sufficiency freeing up power for the national grid. BIAP's electrical system consists of three 33kV power transformers, 11kV and 400V distribution systems, five diesel generators, and numerous small emergency generators. Work continues on installing cable trays, power cables, and control cables for the system's diesel generators. Radiators needed for one of the diesel generators have recently arrived. Test runs for all generators are scheduled for this month.



Laying power cables between generators.

USAID's work at BIAP began in May 2003. Initial work focused on emergency repairs to allow the immediate re-opening of the airport by July 2003. USAID also repaired the airport terminal and administration offices, installed communication systems, rehabilitated customs offices, and repaired passenger support facilities. The current electrical work is being complemented by a recently completed activity to refurbish the aircraft control tower.

The V-94 Siemens Combustion Gas Turbine arrived safely on site at the Taza substation outside of Kirkuk on April 2, 2005. The turbine is part of a larger project to bring increased reliable power to the Iraqi power grid which includes the installation of two Westinghouse Siemens Combustion Gas Turbines, a V-64 and a V-94. Combined, these turbines will add 325MW to the national grid. The V-64 arrived earlier and is contributing 65MW of power. With the gantry crane on site, the new turbine is being unloaded and moved to its foundation. The Taza site, south of Kirkuk, was chosen as the location for the new turbines because it is a major hub of the national grid and because of its proximity to a 15km pipeline extension that provides the plant's gas supply.

Work is continuing on the rehabilitation of the Doura power plant in southern Baghdad. Although its four steam boilers and turbines are each rated at 160MW, all have been poorly maintained for many years to the point where they can not be operated at full-load without risk of further damage. As a result, the plant has operated far below its full-load rating of 640MW.

The project covers rehabilitation of steam turbine generator units #5 & #6, replacement of boiler and turbine controls with a modern, sustainable system, and refurbishment of a 132kV switchyard. The work 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 (75% of full-load MW) is projected to be available for Iraq's national electrical grid. Work on this project is 88 percent completed.

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

Work recently began at four new well sites as part of USAID's rural water initiative.

Operating under the Iraq Infrastructure Reconstruction Program, this initiative will drill approximately 110 wells in remote locations throughout Iraq. Depending on the quality of water at each site, groundwater treatment can be relatively simple or, in the case of areas where groundwater is high in salts, treatment may require reverse osmosis units.

Operations and Maintenance training will be provided to ensure the sustainability of the wells and treatment systems. The project will benefit about 550,000 rural Iraqis at 110 sites. Well-drilling has already begun at 74 other sites.



Well-drilling has begun at 74 sites in rural areas.

USAID's work to rehabilitate the Rustimiyah North Wastewater Treatment Plant is about 86 percent complete. One of the plant's two processing lines is expected to start up next week after the completion of work on its biological treatment units.

About 33% of Baghdad's effluent sewage flow from 4.8 million people is collected by sewer trunk lines and conveyed to this sewage treatment plant. Although designed to process 360,000 cubic meters/day (or 85 million gallons per day), Rustimiyah North has been inoperable for nearly two years. The plant did not receive the spare parts required to properly maintain facilities and post-conflict looting and vandalism left it out-of-operation. Inoperable sewage treatment facilities and overloaded sewer trunk lines have caused flooding of raw sewage in Sadr City and other densely-populated areas of Baghdad. Additionally, about 85 million gallons per day of raw sewage flows are discharged into a tributary of the Tigris River. Serious public health problems will exist for inner-city and downstream communities until Baghdad wastewater treatment facilities are restored to full efficiency.

The replacement or repair of Rustimiyah North's civil, mechanical, and electrical systems is required to attain full efficiency of both process lines. Necessary civil works include dewatering and the removal of sludge, as well as cleaning treatment trains, all tanks, inlet works, and grit chambers. The process lines will be completely restored from inlet works to final discharge, with the addition of new primary and secondary clarifiers, scrapers, and screens.

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

Iraqi government officials are working with staff from USAID's Iraq Economic Governance II (IEG II) program to reform commercial laws and institutions. The collaboration has made progress in developing commercial legislation and assessing the current state of commercial law, and is now focused on capacity building efforts for Iraqi government entities and institutions. Recent activities include:

Institutional capacity building. IEG II staff recently conducted a training course on information technology (IT) for 10 officials from the Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce. As commercial legal reforms move forward, a key factor in their sustainability will be the capacity of Iraqi government agencies to advocate for and implement new laws. A number of current IEG II activities seek to build this capacity. The Minister of Justice has officially approved an IEG II reform proposal that emphasizes the need for human resource development and training, policy and organizational reform, and IT development. The Minister has appointed two working committees to oversee the reform effort within the Ministry. IEG II has also reached a formal understanding with the Chief Justice of Iraq's Higher Judicial Council on technical assistance to support judicial training in matters of commercial law, developing options for dedicated commercial courts, IT assessment and development, assessment of infrastructure rehabilitation needs. The Ministry of Justice and the Courts play a key role in regulating business and adjudicating commercial issues.

Legislative and policy reform. IEG II advisors finalized in English and in Arabic a draft of the Commercial Agencies Law and submitted it to the Ministry of Trade for review and comment. The Minister of Transportation appointed a legal advisor to work with the IEG II team on reviewing the status of Iraq's commercial maritime laws; IEG II is working with the Ministry to study and modernize maritime laws. IEG II staff are also continuing to prepare a comprehensive, digital inventory of all Iraqi legislation, including English translations where available. This catalog of legal information will be used to identify reform needs and develop appropriate reform strategies.

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 April 2004, addresses the short-term recovery of agricultural infrastructure as well as medium and long-term implementation of policies to develop a market-based agricultural economy.

USAID's goals are to work in conjunction with Iraqi ministries, the private sector, and higher education institutions to revitalize agricultural production, stimulate income and employment generation, nurture rural initiatives, and rehabilitate the natural resource base.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and the Agriculture Reconstruction and Development for Iraq (ARDI) program approved a grant to provide 240 small farms in central and southern Iraq with simple and inexpensive drip irrigation kits to demonstrate efficient water use. The family drip irrigation system being supplied is a low-cost, highly effective system developed especially for small farms and rural areas. The project aims to improve the living conditions of small-scale farmers by encouraging the efficient use of water resources and increasing their capacity for agricultural production.

MOA and ARDI recently began work on a nationwide market price information program in Iraq to provide current information for farmers and traders regarding the prices they can expect for their products. A price database is being compiled and will enable ARDI to provide comparisons of market prices and locations. Price monitors at the wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in As Sulaymaniyah and Arbil have started to record actual transaction prices early in the morning when retail vendors are purchasing their daily supplies. MOA/ARDI staff are now training monitors to expand data collection to markets in Baghdad, Mosul, Kirkuk, Basrah and Dahuk.

In support of the MOA's national wheat program and private sector development efforts, ARDI will procure eight grain cleaners and 20 wheat seed processors for use around the country. MOA/ARDI will distribute several units to farmer co-ops and use the remainder for wheat technology demonstrations. The goals of this program are to increase the quality of Iraqi wheat, increase farmer income, and promote privatization of the sector.

Twenty-four veterinary clinics throughout Iraq are being rehabilitated with support from ARDI. Many of Iraq's public veterinary clinics were neglected under the previous regime and either looted or partially destroyed during the 2003 conflict. The rehabilitated clinics will coordinate vaccines and provide blanket treatment for farmers during disease outbreaks to help prevent the loss of herds.

The clinics proposed for rehabilitation are selected by a working group consisting of MOA and ARDI representatives. The work includes structural, plumbing and electrical rehabilitation and the provision of furniture, and office and veterinary equipment and will improve the quality of the country's livestock herds and provide greater income for families. Losses of livestock will be reduced as more animals are given vaccines and disease outbreaks can be controlled with a greater degree of success.



Well-drilling has begun at 74 sites in rural areas.

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

Law students from an As Sulaymaniyah Governorate university finished 42nd out of more than 100 teams from 84 countries competing in the Jessup Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C. The Iraqi team went two-and-two, handing the only opening-round loss to Moscow State University in one of the tournament's greatest upsets. This was Iraq's first year attending and their placement is the best any first-year team has accomplished in the tournament's 46 year history. USAID's Higher Education and Development (HEAD) program, the International Human Rights Law Institute at DePaul University, and the US State Department supported the students' attendance.

The four team members, three of whom are women, were chosen from the law school's top 25 students. They have been preparing for months, studying international law, preparing briefs, and practicing in moot court classrooms. During the week-long conference and tournament the students met President Bush, toured Washington, and discussed their experiences with staff from USAID. The conference was an exceptional opportunity for Iraqi students to re-integrate with the international legal community, demonstrate the competence and spirit of Iraqi students and universities who are succeeding in the face of so many challenges, and share the invaluable experience and perspective that the Iraqi people have in building democracy.

Throughout Iraq, over 4,600 community members have participated in 55 workshops to organize the replacement of rural schools made of mud and reeds with concrete facilities. During the workshops, held by local Departments of Education in 16 governorates, community members completed written surveys pledging in-kind contributions of materials and labor to support school construction and pledged a variety of support including potable water tanks, electrical fixtures, labor for school construction and evening security. Workshop attendees included representatives from the local mud school, the Parent-Teacher Association, and other community members.

Grants for the school replacements are provided by USAID's basic education program which is being implemented by a partner organization with extensive experience in improving education worldwide. Several schools planned for construction encountered obstacles due to security problems as well as the rising costs of labor and materials. Most mud schools are primary schools, some are secondary and some are mixed. By helping Iraqi communities build improved educational facilities, USAID is supporting the Ministry of Education's work to provide all Iraqi children with quality basic education.

Twenty-one women faculty members of an Iraqi university received one month of daily English language training with support from USAID. The University of Hawaii implemented this training as a part of the Agricultural Sciences HEAD partnership that provides support to agricultural colleges at two Iraqi universities. The training will allow the faculty to make better use of the TEEAL (The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library) database that the HEAD program installed. The women will also be better able to take advantage of other research resources and international training opportunities, empowering them to continue to work to improve Iraqi Agricultural research and production.

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

The Assistance to Civilian Victims of the Conflict Initiative of the Community Action Program (CAP) supports medical assistance for individuals injured as a result of Coalition Force operations and for facilities destroyed either accidentally by bombing or intentionally when the buildings were suspected as being used by anti-Coalition Forces.

An architecture student at a Baghdad university who lost his arm when his house collapsed during Coalition fighting is receiving a prosthetic hand and therapy sessions with the assistance of the CAP program.

Eighty-five disabled people in Maysan Governorate received wheelchairs through a Wheelchair Distribution Project. To complement this project, 37 buildings in the town, including health centers, the court house, the main post office and several schools, have been selected to receive wheelchair ramps. Along with construction, the local organization will coordinate several activities to highlight the rights of disabled members of society.

A Ninawa' village health center that was suspected as being used by anti-Coalition Forces was completely demolished in March 2003. The center was empty at the time and no one was injured; however, the closest hospital is 40 km away. A \$46,049 grant supported the rehabilitation, enabling 2,500 people in the area to obtain the medical and health services they need.

The CAP team in Karbala began working with a Community Association in May 2004 to construct a health clinic at the University, which is now open to students and faculty members injured during Coalition Forces attacks on insurgents in the area in December 2003 as well as to residents of nearby communities, many of whom have also been victims of the military incursions, insurgent attacks and increased criminal activity.

A physical therapy center in Karbala governorate will be rehabilitated with CAP support. The center is the only of its kind in Karbala and sustained looting and damage in April 2003 and years of neglect under Saddam's regime. As a result, the center is ill-equipped to treat patients, including 90 persons that were injured by Coalition Forces military operations.

CAP will provide equipment to improve the medical services available to 20,000 people in a town in Salah ad Din governorate; to date, there have been 17 civilian victims of Coalition military activity in the town. The total project value will be \$46,350, and will benefit 30 war victims, over 20,000 town residents, and an additional 20,000 in surrounding villages.

Foundation construction is underway for the new Basrah Children's Hospital. The land allocated by the Ministry of Health for the hospital is in an area where the water table is particularly high and subject to tidal surges, resulting in unstable subsoil conditions. Soil tests showed that greater foundation stability is needed. The solution is to drive 1,309 steel reinforced, concrete pilings that will sufficiently strengthen the foundation for the hospital. Construction crews have also built about half (700 meters) of the perimeter wall for the hospital compound.

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

In northern Iraq, 170 participants from three governorates attended 11 training workshops to increase civil society organization (CSO) participation in reconstruction efforts and the drafting of the national constitution. The workshops were facilitated by ICSP staff with support from a local cultural center. Additionally, in south central Iraq, approximately 600 people, half of whom were women, attended 19 training workshops on CSO organization sponsored by the ICSP south central office. Topics focused on CSO internal management and organizational development and gender issues.

Election Information Network (EIN) directors and senior staff attended a training this past week on event management, evaluation, and needs assessment to prepare for four regional evaluation conferences to be held throughout Iraq. The regional evaluation and review is an outreach exercise designed to examine the challenges and obstacles that EIN faced during the last election. The training also served as a needs assessment to enhance communication between EIN and its partners. The evaluations are intended to assist the EIN Board of Directors to develop a new workplan for the Network in the hope of adding to the overall improvement of EIN's effectiveness.

A two-day session was conducted in Baghdad in late March for women active within Iraq's political system on the basics of public speaking and political party advancement. The 48 participants came from a variety of backgrounds; some were interested in becoming more involved within their parties while others were already TNA members and seek greater leadership roles. Throughout the training, all participants received an opportunity to deliver a brief message on camera and take part in a peer review and critique of their performance. All participants felt the training session was positive and provided real skills needed in the world of politics.

USAID's partner providing support to the constitutional development process is conducting a micro-grant program that will support NGO activities contributing to a wider public awareness of the constitutional process and the referendum. The partner is finalizing the review and selection process of all micro-grant proposals submitted by NGOs principally based in Southern and Southern-Central Iraq. Out of the 57 proposals submitted in the past few weeks, over 20 grants will be awarded. The program also aims at identifying NGOs with the potential and skills to become active members of the USAID program's "Constitution and Civil Society" related activities. USAID and its partners will therefore closely monitor the implementation of this project to identify new and long-term partners.

As part of its Constitution and Civil Society initiative, the USAID partner providing support to the constitutional development process continued work on a "Constitution Information Package" which will serve as an essential reference tool guide for civil society organizations wishing to participate in spreading greater awareness on the constitutional process.

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

The Community Action Group (CAG) of a town in Karbala' Governorate selected as a development priority the rehabilitation of their electricity network which was destroyed in the April 2003 hostilities. Under USAID's Assistance to Civilian Victims of the Conflict initiative of the Community Action Program (CAP) the CAG will receive funds to provide them with a new main electrical transformer and other repairs to their electric network.

Family farms in Babil and Karbala' Governorates are repairing their irrigation systems with the assistance of the CAP. Fighting in these locales in 2003 damaged the farms' irrigation systems, crippling the families' livelihoods. In Babil, CAP has provided water pumps for four family farms to revitalize their irrigation systems and their incomes. In Karbala', funds will support the excavation of a new irrigation channel restoring access to irrigation water to one hundred and seventy-five farms that were damaged by the conflict.

Assistance to Civilian Victims of the Conflict

At the end of March 2004, each of the five USAID/Iraq Community Action Program (CAP) implementing partners was obligated an additional \$1.8 million to assist victims of the armed conflict in their areas of responsibility through their existing CAP cooperative agreements. CAP was chosen as the most appropriate implementing mechanism because of its reliance on voluntary community groups to identify needs and set priorities, as well as its coverage across all governorates. All victims' assistance projects are vetted by the community groups to ensure that priority needs are met in the communities. Assistance is being targeted at the individual, family and/or community level as agreed upon by the community group, the victims and the USAID implementing partner, but does not include reparations.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Awarded more than 3,186 small grants totaling more than \$258.7 million for quick impact activities that support good governance, civil society, conflict management and mitigation, human rights and transitional justice.
- Funded over 107 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

An engineering professional association in northern Iraq was able to more effectively promote business opportunities for engineers in the reconstruction process using an Iraq Transition Initiative (ITI) grant. By providing the association with essential furniture and equipment, ITI assisted the NGO to improve their ability to communicate with other engineering groups and organizations, and to provide training and capacity building. In their area, it is estimated that 4,000 unemployed engineers can take advantage of the association's services to connect them with possible employers. Expanding the association's ability to educate local engineers on employment opportunities and to provide experience and skills to young engineers has increased the confidence of local residents in their own future and in the general Iraqi transition to a democracy, thus promoting stability in the region.

A local council in south central Iraq provided 45 days of temporary employment to approximately 1,260 local youth and young adults through a series of ITI grants. The grants supported neighborhood clean-ups; the removal of rubble, debris, trash, and sewage and other urban sanitation work in an effort to address tension and instability arising from chronic unemployment and visibly improve the living conditions in these neighborhoods.

ITI supports critical activities that build and sustain Iraqi confidence in the development of a participatory, stable, and democratic Iraq. Since April 2003, ITI has issued more than 2,780 small grants totaling over \$216 million. Focus areas include civil society, conflict mitigation, good governance, and human rights and transitional justice.

An ITI grant enabled a children's center in northern Iraq center to build the capacity of their shelter and conduct outreach activities for children in the area. Activities include sports, painting, sewing, and various social services. The support is directed at rehabilitating children so they may become more productive members of society. Building the capacity of this NGO is also helping to increase the confidence of local citizens in the democratic transition in Iraq as they witness the provision of increased public services in their community.

A culture center in northern Iraq has increased its capacity to provide cultural services to the community and improve youth activities. The center procured basic furniture and equipment under an ITI grant. This particular area is frequented by an ethnically diverse mix of families who enjoy the weather and landscape. The youth in the area participate in many of the center's activities that attract these tourists. The culture center has provided music festivals and social activities for these visitors for free in an attempt to demonstrate normalcy and to remind visitors that peace can be restored again in Iraq. By enabling the center to continue and expand these activities, ITI is contributing to improved cross-ethnic tolerance as well as participation in Iraq's cultural life.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is supporting the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities in 14 schools in Diyala and As Sulaymaniyah Governorate. The work involves replacing the flushing cistern and toilet seats, cleaning manholes, erecting hand-washing basins and taps, installing water tanks and overhead pumps, and plumbing, electrical, and carpentry work. Each individual project is expected to take one month of work; to date, approximately 50% of the projects have been completed.

These interventions will benefit over 1,600 students. Local authorities have assumed the responsibility for overseeing the work, supported by NGO engineers who also pay regular monitoring visits to project sites.



NGO engineers monitoring the rehabilitation of school bathrooms

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

April 14, 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

April 14, 2005

FY 2003-2005			
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: \$164,653,680
Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$8,034,713
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

April 14, 2005

FY 2003-2005			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
IMC	Health, IDP Assistance, Food Security, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, Capacity Building	Countrywide	\$28,952,898
IOM	IDP Assistance	Countrywide	\$16,392,470
IRC	IDP Assistance, Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$8,000,411
IRD	IDP Assistance, Health, Water and Sanitation	Northern Iraq	\$15,000,000
Logistics	Emergency Relief Commodities and USAID/DART Support	Countrywide	\$22,771,653
Mercy Corps	IDP Assistance, Health, Emergency Relief Commodities, Shelter, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$22,199,786
SCF/US	Food Security, Health, IDP Assistance, Shelter, Nutrition, Emergency Relief Commodities, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$7,957,783
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
OCHA	Coordination and Information	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
USAID/Jordan	Support for Emergency Water Activities	Countrywide	\$500,000
WFP	Food Security, Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
World Vision	Health, Logistics, Emergency Relief, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$6,793,739
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: \$372,184,521
Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$10,227,056
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.....			\$4,825,147,143

* 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.