



RECONSTRUCTION WEEKLY UPDATE

September 15, 2005



With the assistance of USAID's Higher Education and Development program, over 100 computers and a satellite dish have been installed at a northern Iraqi university giving the entire campus high-speed Internet access.

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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 of 4,518 MW, greater than the pre-war level of 4,400 MW. Peak production reached 5,365 MW in August 2004 and a peak of 5,389 MW in July 2005.
- USAID has added 1,086 MW of capacity through new generation, maintenance, and rehabilitation work, and also repaired a 400 kV transmission line.
- USAID and the Ministry of Electricity are working with partners to place an additional 400 MW on the national grid by December 2005 through completion of additional rehabilitation and new generation projects.
- USAID completed a project to convert two generators, producing 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 installation of new generation and 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

On September 11, USAID Mission Director Dawn Liberi and Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim Ja'afari inaugurated the opening of the new 216 megawatt (MW) Baghdad South power plant.

This is a new grass roots combustion gas turbine power plant, consisting of two 108 MW gas turbine generators capable of burning residual fuel oil, supplied by the nearby Doura refinery. More than 700 Iraqis worked on the major project. This power plant increases the city's overall power generation by more than 10 percent and provides enough power for approximately 195,000 homes, more than 1.5 million people.



The Power Plant Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Program has completed a series of training programs and will be continuing to provide spare parts and technical support through mid-2006. O&M serves as a short-term source of spare parts and technical support, while also providing for long-term improvement through training in best operational practices and modern management techniques. Total electrical generation capacity for Iraq's thermal and combustion power infrastructure is more than 11,000 MW. However, it has generally performed in the range of 35 to 50 percent of rated capacity, due in part to poor operational techniques, an absence of a proper preventive maintenance program, and a lack of funds for spare parts.

The training component of the project, completed earlier this summer, provided for the classroom training of 238 staff-members from all levels of the Ministry. To customize the curriculum, the trainees were broken down into four tiers, including Senior Management, Middle-Management, Plant Supervisory personnel, and plant technician/operators. Course concepts ranged from strategic planning down to certification for Instrument Technicians. In addition, a two-week course for developing "train-the-trainer" skills was administered for 83 plant supervisors from across the ministry's 19 power plants. Nineteen sets of training materials, along with supporting IT equipment, were delivered to each power plant to help jumpstart the local level training effort.

To date, the spare parts and technical services program has been successful in supporting the Ministry and helping to ensure sustainability of USAID's investment in the power sector. Over \$30 million in critical spares have been delivered or are on order. In addition, technical services and parts were provided to work on two vital combustion turbine generators that supply MW to the Baghdad area. The units were operating at 60 percent capacity and in need of a mandatory inspection/repair inspection. The O&M Program provided roughly \$20 million for this crucial work, completing the task in time to provide much needed support during the Summer Power peak period.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Assisted the Government of Iraq to develop and submit the first filing in the WTO accession process - the Memorandum of Foreign Trade Regime.
- Provided technical assistance and 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 and capacity building to three private sector banks to develop their own lending programs.
- Trained over 700 Iraqis in International Accounting Practices.
- Assisted in management of \$21 million micro-credit program. Providing over 40,000 hours of microfinance training in 2004-2005.
- 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 5 percent reconstruction levy on imports; built capacity of customs officials to implement levy.
- Developed a government-wide IT strategy to automate planning, budgeting and reporting processes across ministries.
- Developing the Iraqi Investment Promotion Agency with the Government of Iraq.

USAID works with Iraqi institutions to establish an environment for sustainable economic growth. Assistance empowers policy makers to formulate and execute decisions based on economic data, and to implement modern best practices in economic governance. USAID projects provide a framework for private sector trade, commerce, and investment throughout Iraq.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

USAID staff met with 35 board members from Iraq's private banks to set a strategy for the development of the banking industry and to disseminate best practice standards of international banks. The session included a briefing on the economic and monetary situation of the banking industry and its impacts for Iraq's private banks, comparisons of Iraqi banks with operations of other banks in the Arab region, and discussions of banking products that serve the needs of customers and can produce additional revenue. "Some of the new banking products that were discussed are new to us," noted one banker who attended the meeting. "During the period of Saddam, no one could hold sessions or meetings regarding the development of the banking sector," he added. "It was forbidden. Holding this session is like transferring businessmen from the darkness to the light."

The first modern English language business books have recently been delivered to five Baghdad area learning resource centers. The centers had been isolated for years. Each shipment included more than 100 books covering accounting, marketing, leadership, auditing, economics, and law. The books, which were supplied by USAID's project to develop Iraq's private sector, comply with the UN Conference on Trade and Development's Global Curriculum for Accountants and ensure that bookkeepers in Iraq are trained using the same standards as their colleagues throughout the world.

The Government of Iraq submitted its Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime (MFTR) of the nation on August 29th to the WTO in Geneva, Switzerland, to mark the start of the accession process. Technical assistance in drafting the memorandum was provided by USAID. The MFTR document describes all aspects of a country's trade policy that have a bearing on WTO Agreements. The memorandum covers general economic indicators, policies affecting trade in goods, such as import and export regulations, agricultural and industrial policies, intellectual property rights, trade in services, customs valuation, and licensing requirements. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, the World Trade Organization is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. It consists of 148 member nations, including the United States, United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, and France.

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

Directors of Agriculture and Planning from all 18 governorates in Iraq and the central Ministries assembled at a USAID sponsored meeting to prepare for the 2007 National Agricultural Survey, which will collect crop planting and production data that will dictate policy decisions. In the past, the Central Statistics Organization was in charge of the collection and processing of all national statistics, but in view of the special nature of agriculture it was agreed in 2003 to transfer that responsibility to the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). The workshop initiated the outline of program and planning guidelines for the national agricultural survey and assigned responsibilities for the preparatory work. Staff from USAID's Agriculture Reconstruction and Development for Iraq (ARDI) program and the MOA shared experiences from the past year of farm surveys in several pilot governorates to demonstrate the capabilities and challenges facing nationwide surveys. The participants agreed that a national agricultural survey would be conducted in 2007, and several governorate wide surveys in 2006. The results from the farm surveys will be promptly released and disseminated, followed by intergovernmental meetings to assess experiences, readiness, and needs.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) throughout Iraq recently attended an NGO Leaders Workshop hosted by USAID. The workshop helped prepare organizations to be potential partners in implementing USAID's agricultural development projects, by developing the leadership capacity to enable the NGOs to take a more active role in the development of Iraq's agriculture sector.

Representatives from 10 NGOs working in the governorates of Basrah, Muthanna, Ninewa, Tamim, Sulaymaniyah, Arbil, and Dahuk attended the conference. The workshop began with an overview of the work that ARDI has been doing in the agricultural sector, as well as an outline of priorities for the coming year. The NGOs were invited to review their own areas of emphasis, with particular attention to the agricultural sector. The participants formed smaller working groups to discuss strategies for broad-based action in the agricultural sector through collaborative work with government agencies, private entrepreneurs, farmers' organizations, and the international community. Toward the close of the two-day event, the participants proposed the creation of a coalition of NGOs which would meet periodically to exchange ideas and discuss possible areas of collaboration. All of the groups agreed to meet again at the beginning of December, and one of the participants offered to host the event and share the costs of the meetings. ARDI will continue to support the creation of an NGO network organization, and will form active partnerships with new NGOs to support projects and activities throughout the country.

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.
- Assist the Executive Authority, the Presidency Council, and the Council of Ministers and its presiding Prime Minister to develop governing processes, rules of procedure, regulations and directives necessary to enforce the laws, and to implement government programs and policies.
- Support the process for adopting an Iraqi constitution that promotes democratic principles and values through technical assistance that includes, but is not limited to, providing comparative constitutional expertise; organizing constitutional conferences and conventions; facilitating public awareness, education, and participation; and assisting in the conduct of a national referendum or other ratifying mechanism.

USAID continues to plan and implement a variety of programs, undertaken in partnership with Iraqi counterparts, matching the needs of the evolving Iraqi democracy. In particular, USAID is accelerating support to the Iraqi National Assembly during the constitutional drafting process and upcoming referendum and elections.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

A final draft of the Iraqi Constitution has now been shared with the United Nations and is being printed for widespread distribution. Although there are still some reservations about the most recent document—within the Sunni community in particular—the draft does reflect concessions from the Iraqi Shi'a and Kurdish parliamentarians, particularly with regard to the description of the Iraqi national identity. USAID is providing support for an expert analysis of each article of the constitution, the identification of the laws necessary for its implementation, and the drafting of a list of key issues likely to emerge during the public debate of the document in the coming months. The program is emphasizing the potential impact on substantive topics such as women's rights, religious issues, and federalism. This analysis will help inform public education and outreach efforts. The available draft was also circulated to the International Advisory Group for comments and advice on implementation laws.

The Constitutional Awareness Program is actively reaching out to involve Sunni and Shi'a groups in the political process. In anticipation of the Oct. 15th referendum, USAID partners recently met with several Sunni members of the Constitutional Committee and the National Assembly to discuss outreach programs to take place in Sunni areas over the next month. These programs will educate Sunni citizens about the draft constitution and encourage them to vote. Also, the program will train additional event facilitators from Sunni areas and will bring more Sunni NGOs into program activities.

Program leaders also met with a delegation of three clerics close to Shi'a Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Husaini Sistani and 10 NGO leaders from Najaf. The meeting emphasized that the Constitutional Awareness Program operates impartially, and invited members to participate in future civil society and election activities. The group agreed to appoint a coordinator to assist with outreach in Najaf. In addition to meetings with political leaders, the civil society team continues to work with its program NGO partners to identify participants for future trainings and educational outreach about the draft constitution.

The Women's Program conducted a coalition-building workshop for 21 women from 12 different organizations. Over the two-day training, participants discussed merits of combining efforts and outlined the steps necessary to build an advocacy coalition. With help from the program, participants began structuring an advocacy coalition among seven of the groups and are already taking steps to define operating rules. They also elected sub-committees for media, advocacy, and communication. This new women's advocacy coalition has decided to work on legislative drafting, especially personal status laws.

The voter registration observation program has been successfully completed. Monitors reported that close contact with people working in the Voter Registration Centers and helped them to evaluate the credibility and completeness of incoming reports. Also, monitors succeeded in building good relations with Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI), benefiting all parties during the next elections.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Launched a Civic Education Campaign, which educated Iraqis nationwide on democracy and political transition in Iraq. Over 550 democratic dialogue facilitators were recruited to help Iraqis participate in political processes. More than 22,000 local democracy dialogues events were conducted by election day, in which well over 750,00 Iraqis participated.
- Established regional offices in Al Basrah, Al Hillah, Baghdad, and Erbil, with resident expat and Iraqi professional staff operating in all 18 governorates.
- Awarded \$15.5 million in rapid-response grants in the first program year to strengthen the capacity of authorities to deliver core municipal services. The grants were used to restore services in fire safety, education, health, electricity, sanitation, and water. In the second year, a similar grants program is being implemented.
- Facilitated the establishment or refreshment of 16 governorate councils, 96 district councils, 195 city or sub-district councils, and 437 neighborhood councils.
- Supported preparation of 2004 and 2005 budgets in Baghdad, Mosul, Hillah, Babil, and Najaf.
- Supported a series of National Agenda Dialogue Conferences, which engaged stakeholders such as academics, journalists, women, lawyers, health professionals, tribal leaders, the disabled and civil society organizations in discussions on their roles in Iraq's developing 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

Twelve key members of the Provincial Council in Al Anbar Governorate received training in administrative authorities and responsibilities. The initial session, entitled "PC Authorities and Responsibilities" marks the start of the training program for the new Provincial Council in this previously isolated province of Iraq. Discussions involved the Council's authority to monitor programs of central ministries in the province and to elect and remove the Governor and police chief. Participants also received training on ways of increasing revenues and methods of engaging ordinary citizens in the decision making process. This first meeting will be followed by regular training sessions, helping the Provincial Council build capacity.

The Baghdad Provincial Reconstruction and Development Committee (PRDC) is working to finalize lists of proposed projects and scopes of work. The PRDC has thus far defined nearly all of the scopes of work for the 52 proposed projects, working in collaboration with USAID partners and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Fifteen road reconstruction projects have already been submitted and funded, with implementation beginning mid-September. The Baghdad PRDC has also submitted another project list to the Provincial Council for approval.

The PRDCs are advisory bodies established in each governorate to help ensure that resources and authority flow from the central government to Iraq's 18 provinces. Composed of community members, local leaders, and development partners, these PRDCs identify and prioritize their own development needs from a regional perspective, and design projects to address them. Defining these project scopes of work is an important step for Baghdad's nascent PRDC, helping the organization develop the ability to clearly define and oversee local development projects. Recommendations from the PRDC pass on to the Provincial Council, which makes the final decision.

The Baghdad Provincial Council, in coordination with USAID partners, organized a workshop with the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of nine districts and six Qadas Councils. In all, 28 members of various leadership councils in the governorate, including representatives of the Regional Council, attended the one-day event. The workshop aimed to strengthen the relationship and build a working association between the Provincial Council and the other councils of Baghdad. Participants agreed to hold another two-day conference in September. The Provincial Council also agreed to hold bi-weekly meetings with the same participants, giving them an opportunity to collectively provide insights and promote decentralization of local services in the new constitution.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- USAID has supported over 3,300 projects with not more than 25 percent of total funding coming from Iraqi communities. CAP has established over 600 community action groups (CAGs) in 17 governorates. Five U.S. NGOs each concentrate on a region: north, Baghdad, southwest 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 651 projects with over \$20 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. The NGO has completed 365 projects and has over \$21 million in project commitments.
- Income generation is an important emphasis in the Baghdad program where 543 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 million.
- In the southeast central region, 201 projects are complete with a total of \$18.5 million in commitments. In the Shi'a 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 765 projects with total commitments of \$23 million. Projects have focused on immediate community needs such as sewage clean up, water treatment and distribution, public health, and girls' access to education.

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 development group (CDG) in Al Muthanna' governorate met with local civil society organizations to develop two projects and build working relationships. Although the meeting, organized by USAID's Community Action Program (CAP), was intended to familiarize the CDG with local groups and resources, participants soon discussed and approved two project ideas. The first project will help generate income for eight women heading large families by providing 30 days of training in sewing and tailoring. The second project will provide 10 days of computer training to five community leaders. The sites for the two workshops—a sewing factory and a computer training center—were established by local NGOs with CAP support.

The CDGs—a key element of CAP—represent individual, self-defined communities within a city and identify common needs and potential solutions. They provide for a collective, community-based approach to local development and decentralization. Each community is represented at the CDG cluster meetings, with each group having equal voting power in order to assure a fair and transparent project prioritization process.

Eighteen new community action groups (CAG) have recently been formed in the southern governorates – Basrah, Dhi Qar, and Al Muthanna'. Communities are showing an increasing interest in building CAGs and local organizations, drawing from the experience of neighboring communities as well as USAID. The groups will help provide initiative and management oversight for local development projects, giving Iraqi citizens a voice in the decisions that affect their communities. CAP partners have also actively encouraged increased collaboration between district and municipal councils and the CAGs.

Representing geographically defined neighborhoods, Communities Action Groups engage local residents in the process of identifying their needs and designing projects to meet them. CAG members also offer secure assistance support from local government, obtain necessary authorizations from relevant government bodies, mobilize contributions, and monitor project progress and quality. These community groups are a core component in USAID's efforts to help Iraqi communities identify and prioritize their own development needs, and develop projects to address them.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- 2,717 schools have been rehabilitated, some of which through direct contracting and grants to communities.
- Hundreds of thousands of desks, chairs, cabinets, chalkboards, and more than 3 million school kits have been distributed country-wide.
- 36,000 secondary school teachers and administrators, including 928 master trainers, have been trained. Over the next year, up to 100,000 additional teachers will receive in-service training.
- Eighty-four primary and secondary schools (four in each governorate) are being established to serve as model schools. Teachers will receive six weeks of training, and schools will be equipped with computer and science laboratories.
- More than 550 out-of-school youth completed a pilot accelerated learning program. An expanded program, targeting 11,000 out-of-school youth, will be implemented during the 2005–06 school year.
- Satellite Internet access and computers were installed at the Ministry of Education and in all 21 Directorates of Education. To improve resource management, an Education Management Information System will be installed.
- More than 8.7 million math and science textbooks have been edited, printed, and distributed throughout Iraq.
- Partnerships were established between five American and 10 Iraqi universities. Through these partnerships, more than 1,500 Iraqi faculty and students have participated in workshops, trainings, conferences, and courses in Iraq, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States.
- University facilities, such as libraries, computer and science laboratories, lecture halls, and buildings, have been rehabilitated at colleges of law, engineering, medicine, archeology, and agriculture. In addition, books and electronic resources have been provided to university libraries.

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

The Higher Education and Development (HEAD) Program has completed production of a “Comparative Health Systems” course curriculum for use in Iraqi universities. The CD ROM-based curriculum includes information on health systems and outlines the methods for analyzing their relative efficiency and effectiveness. The course includes essential demographic, economic, mortality, health care, and health services data from case studies on Iraq, Oman, Egypt, Canada, the UK, and the United States. The curriculum also includes course materials, such as Power Point lectures, suggested reading lists, assignments, and sample examinations. Sponsored by USAID, the HEAD Program brings together American and Iraqi universities to strengthen Iraq's capacity in critical areas such as public health.

A team of scientists from Iraqi and U.S. universities are continuing collaborative research work in the health sciences. The project, funded by HEAD, studies the molecular basis of B-Thalassemia in northern Iraq. The genetic disorder, which manifests itself as severe anemia, is one of the most serious health problems worldwide and accounts for a major number of childhood deaths annually in Iraq. Funds totaling \$4,403 were transferred to support the research project. This partnership is an essential component in establishing ties between U.S. and Iraqi universities and other research institutions.

The Internet Technology Infrastructure project at a northern Iraqi university is nearing completion. Over 100 computers have been installed and the campus-wide network is functioning. A satellite dish has also been installed, giving the entire campus high-speed Internet access. Equipment has already been sent for the final part of the project: linking the medical college and a satellite campus with wireless equipment. The IT Infrastructure project is part of the HEAD Program's larger commitment to help Iraqi universities rebuild and develop the vital facilities and educational infrastructure of a functioning university. The partnership led by Jackson State University is one of five groups in the HEAD Program. Since January 2004, HEAD has helped Iraqi universities build capacity in legal education, public health, environmental health, library sciences, archaeology, and agricultural sciences.



Community Sustainable Outreach Workshop (CSHOP) awarded its last in a series of mini-grants for public health research. Recipients include professors and medical experts from Iraqi universities, as well as two public health non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in northern Iraq. One recent project is developing nursing and medical practices around the delivery of public health services. This community outreach program is helping build the capacity of communities to develop sustainable public health programs.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Awarded 4,445 small grants totaling \$306 million for quick impact activities that support good governance, civil society, conflict management and mitigation, human rights and transitional justice.
- Funded 143 grants totaling over \$5.1 million that focus on women's issues, including supporting the rehabilitation of 40 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

Sanitary conditions in a major city in southern Iraq were significantly improved by a series of clean-up projects supported by Iraq Transition Initiative (ITI) grants. Seven projects were conducted by a local organization to clean areas that had become overrun with waste. The area was neglected by the previous regime and services such as trash removal and sewage system up-keep have been grossly inadequate. The local organization employed nearly 800 laborers from their community to conduct the projects. Each neighborhood saw 100-150 of its residents engage in strenuous activity to remove backed-up sewage and trash. These 60-day jobs provided not only a healthier environment for all area residents but inspired confidence in the local governments and improved the local economy by putting people back to work.

An independent group of university students in northern Iraq helped demonstrate the advantages of consensus building by working together to decide the appropriate use of an ITI grant. ITI representatives held meetings with students representing five university departments – Kurdish, Math, English, Science, and Social Sciences – and gave them the opportunity to make department-specific requests. Instead, the students decided by consensus to pool their resources and make a joint project proposal. The activity is part of a larger effort to teach democracy on a grassroots level.

The ITI grant ultimately provided air-conditioners for a lecture hall and a photocopy machine. The students themselves organized committees to oversee and implement this project, carrying the sense of project ownership beyond the simple decision-making process. Overall, this grant benefited 500 university students and demonstrated the potential of democratic participation to the entire student body.

A local NGO recently used an ITI grant to help renovate the second largest stadium of an ethnically tense and politically important city of northern Iraq. Thousands of returned internally-displaced people currently inhabit the largest stadium. Thus, the second largest stadium is the only option for significant public events, ranging from prestigious intra-governorate soccer competitions to university graduations.

The stadium was looted during the 1991 uprising and has since been neglected and fallen into greater disrepair. The population continued to use the stadium despite its alarming safety hazards. The grant provided the labor and equipment needed to help renovate the stadium. With a high-quality facility, the city can proudly – and safely – host public events. Seating over 6000 people, the renovated stadium should now be more suitable to bolstering community spirit among this mixed population.



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, 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 persons (IDPs).

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Representatives from 27 villages in the Kalar district of Sulaymaniyah attended the first in a series of hygiene education "training of trainers" sessions. The sessions, organized and led by OFDA partners, will educate future trainers about the importance of hygiene practices in the workplace, in schools, and at home. Supported by leaflets and posters, these representatives will then carry this information back to their villages and hold a total of 40 training sessions throughout Diyala and southern Sulaymaniyah districts.

Poor hygiene in the region contributes to the spread of infectious and water-borne diseases. Diarrhea, preventable with good hygiene and clean drinking water, has become one of the main killers of children under five. According to a UN report, the number of deaths in Iraq from diarrhea per 1,000 cases rose from 1.6 in 1990 to about 19 in 1998, underscoring the importance of hygiene education.

OFDA and implementing partners will extend a water pipeline network across three districts in Wasit governorate. Over the past few weeks, project leaders have held meetings with local council members and tribal Sheiks to discuss the possibility of their participation in the project. The meetings also extended to other community authorities and affected populations in the targeted areas to build local support and discuss issues of location, logistics, and security. OFDA has also worked closely with the engineering staff of the Wasit Water Directorate to discuss challenges and constraints. The network extension will greatly increase local access to potable water, benefiting residents and IDPs in the area. Construction will additionally create a number of jobs for local laborers.

Preparations have begun for the construction of new water compact units in three villages in the Al Kahlaa district, Maysan governorate. OFDA engineers and health experts have been meeting with tribal Sheiks, community leaders, and affected populations throughout the area to coordinate planning and investigate specific health and infrastructure needs. Many of the local tribesmen have pledged to help when the implementation process gets started. Planning has also proceeded with the assistance of the district Water Office Directorate to help better identify and address the needs of the local population.

IDPs and other vulnerable populations in the area have suffered from the poor availability of clean drinking water. Often, potable water is only available through costly water tankers. The new water units will help address the serious health concerns that have developed. The compact units will be able to process 50 cubic meters of water per hour.



Since the cessation of the 2003 conflict, USAID has completed its planned work at Umm Qasr Seaport, re-stored significant portions of Iraq's telecommunications network, rebuilt three major bridges and restored the rail line connecting Umm Qasr with Basra city and points north. USAID also helped avert a humanitarian crisis during the conflict by providing assistance to the United Nations World Food Program. USAID advisors continue to assist with management and distribution of food rations to Iraqi citizens.

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, 2003.
- Up to 50 ships offload at the port every month.
- Completed dredging to open all 21 berths to deep-sea ships.
- 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 percent of the population.
- Reconstituted Baghdad area phone service by installing switches with 240,000 lines at 12 sites.
- Installed and fully integrated 13 new switches with 14 existing switches.
- Worked with the Ministry of Communications to reactivate more than 215,000 subscriber lines.
- Installed a satellite gateway system at Baghdad's largest telecom exchange and restored international service.
- Trained telecom engineers and technicians in the operation and maintenance of the satellite gateway system and the new switches.

BRIDGES AND ROADS

- Rebuilt three major bridges—Khazir, Tikrit and Al Mat bridges—critical to moving 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 (MOT). This work allows shipments 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 (PDS) in less than 30 days, avoiding a humanitarian food crisis and providing food security throughout the country.
- With Iraqi food distributors, Food for Peace, the WFP, and Coalition Forces maintained deliveries from June through December 2003 in all 18 governorates.
- Played a key role in an agreement between the WFP, CPA, and the MoT that provided the WFP with the resources and authority to continue to support the PDS through June 2004.
- In partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Iraq, providing on-going support to the Public Distribution System Working Group to assist the Ministry of Trade with improving PDS management.

PROGRAM FINANCIAL SUMMARY

September 15, 2005

FY 2003-2005*			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
Reconstruction USAID/ANE			Subtotal: \$3,972,003,243
Abt Associates	Health	Countrywide	\$23,031,886
AFCAP	Logistics	Countrywide	\$91,500,000
America's Development Foundation	Civil Society	Countrywide	\$42,880,157
Army Corps of Eng.	Architecture and Engineering Services	Countrywide	\$38,086,393
BearingPoint	Economic Governance	Countrywide	\$79,583,885
BearingPoint	Economic Governance II	Countrywide	\$103,500,000
Bechtel	Airports, buildings, power, railroads, roads, bridges, port, water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$1,029,833,259
Bechtel	Infrastructure II: Airports, buildings, emergency communications, power, railroads, roads and bridges, Umm Qasr seaport, water and sanitation, Basra Hospital	Countrywide	\$1,319,911,678
CAII	Education	Countrywide	\$56,503,000
CAII	Education II	Countrywide	\$51,809,000
CEPPS	Iraq Governing Council	Countrywide	\$675,000
CEPPS	Transitional Government	Countrywide	\$35,700,000
CEPPS	Voter Education, Domestic Observation and Conflict Resolution	Countrywide	\$49,275,000
CEPPS	Elections Administration Support	Countrywide	\$41,000,000
Community Action Program	Development in impoverished communities	Countrywide	\$258,820,000
DAI	Marshlands	South	\$4,000,000
DAI	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$101,352,912
Logenix	Health	North/Central	\$108,506
Louis Berger	Vocational Education	Countrywide	\$30,016,115
Louis Berger	Private Sector Development II	Countrywide	\$95,000,000
MACRO Int'l.	Health	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
Partnership for Child Healthcare	Health	Countrywide	\$2,000,000

PROGRAM FINANCIAL SUMMARY

September 15, 2005

FY 2003-2004			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
RTI	Local Governance	Countrywide	\$241,910,757
RTI	Local Governance II	Countrywide	\$85,000,000
RTI	Health Training	Countrywide	\$22,000,000
SkyLink	Airport Management	Bag., Bas., Mos.	\$27,200,000
SSA	Port Management	Umm Qasr	\$14,318,985
UNDP	Trust Fund Contribution	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
UNESCO	Textbook Printing & Distribution: Math & Science	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$36,700,000
UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$19,600,000
University Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Research Foundation of the State University of New York/Stony Brook and the Universities of Chicago, Boston and Oxford The Human Rights Institute, DePaul University College of Law and Italy's International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences University of Hawaii, the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, University of Jordan and the American University in Beirut Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, Alcorn State University, Mississippi Valley State University, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Benetech, US-Iraq Business Resources University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Cameron University and Langston University 	Countrywide	\$20,730,000
VEGA	Business Skills Training	Countrywide	\$12,089,702
VFH	Elections Support	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
WHO	Strengthen Health System	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$4,808,858
World Bank	Trust Fund Contribution	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
Yankee Group	Telecoms Planning	Countrywide	\$58,150
Emergency Relief USAID/DCHA/OFDA.....			Subtotal: \$182,082,075
ACTED	Water and sanitation, health/hygiene, education	Eastern Iraq	\$2,995,793
Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$8,278,939
AirServ	Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,309,876
ARC	Capacity Building	Central and Southern Iraq	\$537,746
CARE	IDP Assistance, Quick-impact Projects, Water and Sanitation, Health, Emergency Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$9,043,148
The Cuny Center	Research Studies	Countrywide	\$40,260
GOAL	Coordination, Nutrition	Al Muthanna' and Dhi Qar	\$1,507,900
InterAction	Coordination	Countrywide	\$92,860
IDA	Health	Countrywide	\$1,318,437

PROGRAM FINANCIAL SUMMARY

September 15, 2005

FY 2003-2004			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
IMC	Health, IDP Assistance, Food Security, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, Capacity Building	Countrywide	\$34,832,887
IOM	IDP Assistance	Central and Southern Iraq	\$18,892,470
IRC	IDP Assistance, Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$8,000,411
IRD	IDP Assistance, Health, Water and Sanitation, Livelihoods, Emergency Relief Commodities	Northern and Central Iraq	\$17,076,190
Logistics	Emergency Relief Commodities and USAID/DART Support	Countrywide	\$22,771,653
Mercy Corps	IDP Assistance, Health, Emergency Relief Commodities, Shelter, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$25,251,114
SCF/US	Food Security, Health, IDP Assistance, Shelter, Nutrition, Emergency Relief Commodities, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$8,638,652
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
OCHA	Coordination and Information	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
USAID/Jordan	Support for Emergency Water Activities	Countrywide	\$500,000
WFP	Food Security, Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
World Vision	Health, Logistics, Emergency Relief , Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$6,793,739
USAID/DCHA/FFP.....			Subtotal: \$425,571,000
WFP	Operations	Countrywide	\$45,000,000
WFP	Emerson Trust—81,500 MT	Countrywide	\$40,337,000
WFP	P.L. 48– Title II emergency food commodities—163,820 MT	Countrywide	\$140,234,000
WFP	Regional Purchase—330,000MT	Countrywide	\$200,000,000
USAID/DCHA/OTI.....			Subtotal: \$382,636,167
Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$10,678,711
IOM	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$6,462,167
DAI	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$354,500,376
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			\$4,962,292,485

* 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.