



UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

December 16, 2003

Weekly Update #11, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

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

USAID assists the people of Iraq to reconstruct their country by working within the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA). USAID programs are implemented in coordination with the United Nations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private sector partners. The USAID Mission in Iraq carries out programs in education, health care, food security, infrastructure reconstruction, airport and seaport management, economic growth, community development initiatives, local governance, and transition initiatives.

Program Descriptions and Updates

1. Restore Essential Infrastructure

Electricity -- *objectives include: the emergency repair or rehabilitation of power generation facilities and electrical grids. Teams of engineers from the Ministry of Electricity, USAID, Bechtel, and the Corps of Engineers have been working since May to restore capacity to Iraq's power system, which had been looted and was dilapidated from decades of neglect and mismanagement.*

Accomplishments to date:

- Power capacity in Iraq on October 6 peaked at 4,518 MW, surpassing the pre-war level of 4,400 MW.
- Necessary long-term repairs and scheduled maintenance are being conducted at plants throughout the country to build a sustainable power grid.
- Electricity crews are repairing thermal and gas turbine units – essential components required for stable power generation.
- Ministry of Electricity and USAID partner crews have:
 - Rehabilitating the boilers at Doura power plant in Baghdad.
 - Provided technical personnel at key power stations to assist in plant operations and maintenance.
 - Commissioned two gas turbines at the Bayji Plant.



Ad-Doura power plant in Baghdad.
Photo: Thomas Hartwell

Highlights this week:

- Power production peaked at:
 - 3,510 MW on December 6
 - 3,720 MW on December 7
 - 3,540 MW on December 8
 - 3,477 MW on December 9
 - 2,958 MW on December 10
- Scheduled plant shutdowns for rehabilitation and maintenance, in preparation for the high demand in summer months, are ongoing.
- Iraqi power production is returning to near normal levels after a blackout caused by a transmission line failure on December 9 and 10. As of December 11, Iraq's power system was producing around 3,000 MW countrywide, including 1,000 MW in Baghdad.
- Three transmission lines were returned to service on December 8: Baghdad East-Farbi 2, New Baghdad-Nehrwan 1, and An Najaf 2. All three lines went down on December 5. Baghdad East and New Baghdad were taken offline for an emergency switch-off, and An Najaf was taken offline for inspection.

Airports -- objectives include: providing reconstruction material and personnel for the timely repair of damaged airport facilities; the rehabilitation of airport terminals; the creation of systems to permit humanitarian, international commercial and passenger flights and reconstruction material and personnel; and preparation for the eventual handover of airport operations to the Iraqi Airport Commission Authority.

Accomplishments to Date:

- Approximately 50 non-military arrivals and departures occur each day at Baghdad International Airport.
- Completed emergency infrastructure work at Baghdad International Airport for civil air operations. Work included:
 - Repair of Terminal C and administration offices.
 - Installed three "Rapidscan" X-ray machines in Terminal C.
 - Installing VSAT communications systems and 6.5-megawatt power generators.
- Iraqi customs commenced operations in the Baghdad arrivals hall on October 21, 2003.
- Al Basrah International Airport is substantially prepared for commercial operations. Projects include:
 - Repairing runway, taxiway, and apron striping.
 - Installing two baggage x-ray units.
 - Repairing passenger support facilities.
 - Installing VSAT satellite communications.
- Evaluation of reconstruction requirements at Mosul Airport completed.



Baghdad International Airport has been refurbished and repaired with assistance from USAID and CPA.
Photo: Thomas Hartwell

Highlights this week:

- A new perimeter fence is being constructed at Basrah International Airport. Since its erection 20 years ago, it has suffered from a lack of maintenance causing poor alignment, wire-mesh breaches, and crumbling concrete. Under a \$1 million USAID project, a new barrier is being constructed and is scheduled to be completed by the end of January.

Bridges, Roads, and Railroads -- objectives include: the rehabilitation and repair of damaged transportation systems focusing on the most economically critical networks.

Accomplishments to Date:

- Demolition of irreparable sections of three key bridges (Khazir, Tikrit and Al Mat) completed in preparation for reconstruction.
 - Al Mat Bridge: A key link on Highway 10, which carries over 3,000 trucks daily on the main route between Baghdad and Jordan.
 - Completed construction of a 1.5-kilometer, four-lane bypass for the damaged bridge—an essential bypass to transport humanitarian goods.
 - Khazir Bridge: Critical to the flow of fuel and agricultural products to the north.
 - Tikrit Bridge: An important link for passengers and commerce over the Tigris River between Tikrit and Tuz Khurmatu.
- Repairs to a floating bridge on the Tigris River in Al Kut are complete, improving traffic for approximately 50,000 travelers a day.
- Work on railways is an integrated U.S.-Iraqi effort; Iraqi Railway Administration contributes equipment and labor while USAID contributes project management, material and parts. Work on the railway includes:
 - Repairing 72 km of track in the port of Umm Qasr and between the port and Baghdad to ensure that grain shipments from the seaport to mills are not jeopardized due to faulty track.
 - Completed explosive ordinance disposal of the rail line project near Shuiaba Junction (Basrah Governorate).

Umm Qasr Seaport -- objectives include: port administration, hiring of port pilots to guide ships up the channel, coordinating onward transport from the seaport, and facilitating cargo-handling services such as warehousing, shipment tracking, and storage.

Accomplishments to Date:

- Reopened to commercial traffic June 17; first passenger vessel test completed July 16.
- From May 23rd and October 31st 2003, 500,000 metric tons of cargo were offloaded at the port. An estimated 138,000 metric tons were offloaded in November.
- Five hundred Iraqi staff work at the port, the majority of which are in the Marine Department.
- Port operations from September to the present include:
 - 109 ships entered the port and were processed by the Port Authority.
 - More than 278,870 metric tons of rice and sugar food unloaded at the port.
 - More than 3200 containers unloaded at the port
 - 61 Roll-on Roll-off ships were received
 - 46.5 metric tons of goods were unloaded from “dhows”, smaller vessels in the port.
- The port has been dredged to an average depth of 12.5 meters. Previously, the port depth was 9-10 meters deep and limited cargo could only arrive during high tide.
 - As a result of the dredging, the first bulk cargo grain ship arrived at Umm Qasr and finished unloading 52,000 tons of Australian wheat on November 14. The newly refurbished grain-receiving facility moved the grain from the ship to dockside silos without major problems.
 - A second grain ship has discharged its load of 52,185 tons of wheat into the grain-receiving facility.



Workers inspect cables at Umm Qasr, Iraq
Photo courtesy of Bechtel National, Inc.

- Completed renovation of grain-receiving facility, which can process up to 600 metric tons of grain an hour. Final turnover of the facility to Iraqi authorities is expected at the end of January.
- Port tariffs were applied on June 20, contributing to ongoing financial sustainability for port operations.
- Emergency wreck removal and dredging operations are completed, allowing for all 21 berths to be available for deep-draft ships. Two Iraqi dredgers, which are being rehabilitated by USAID partner Bechtel, will maintain the harbor.
- Generators have been installed, energizing all three 11-kV ring mains and restoring power to most parts of the port.
- Work is complete on security fencing at the old and new ports and grain facility.

Telecommunications -- *objectives include: install telephone switches to restore service capability to 230,000 telephone lines in Baghdad area; repairing the nation's fiber optic network from north of Mosul, through Baghdad and Nasiriyah to Umm Qasr by March 2004.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- Purchased tools, equipment, and parts to enable Iraqi engineers to restore parts of the network.
- Audited 400 km of the fiber optic backbone, confirming that only two of twelve fibers are active. Supervised repairs to fiber cuts due to accidents and sabotage.
- Installing 12 transportable exchange switches to support 230,000 subscriber lines in Baghdad.
- The international satellite gateway system at Al Mamoun, Iraq's largest telephone exchange, is integrated with Al Mamoun switches and is ready for service
- Training of Iraqi engineers on the new equipment has commenced.

Highlights this week:

- Baghdad's Al Mamoun telephone exchange officially opened for business on December 13. As of December 14, USAID partner Bechtel and the Iraqi Telecommunications and Postal Company (ITPC) had connected 11,500 subscriber lines to the switch, including 1,500 in the last week. The Ministry of Communications is bringing in additional workers from outside Baghdad to expand the line-splicing workforce and accelerate progress. Al Mamoun is the largest exchange in Iraq, with 30,000 subscribers.

2. Support Essential Health and Education

Health -- *objectives include: supporting a reformed Iraqi Ministry of Health; delivering essential health services; funding medicines and supplemental nutrients; establishing a rapid referral and response system for the most serious cases; providing medical equipment and supplies; training and recruiting health staff; providing health education and information; and determining the specific needs of the health sector and of vulnerable populations such as women and children.*



Dr. Imad Abdul Salam Al-Sheikh receives an emergency medical health kit from USAID at a primary health care center in the Kharkh district of Baghdad. The kit contains supplies and medicine that can benefit up to 10,000 people for three months.

Photo by Thomas Hartwell

Accomplishments to Date:

- Over 30 million doses of vaccines have been procured by the Ministry of Health (MOH) since July, supported by USAID and UNICEF.
- Three million Iraqi children under the age of five have been vaccinated. USAID will provide vaccines for 4.2 million children under five and 700,000 pregnant women.
- UNICEF and the Ministry of Health continue the immunization campaign twice a week with the assistance of about 4,000 health workers and 124 supervisors.
- Five thousand registry books for immunization recording will be printed under a grant to UNICEF. These registry

books will be distributed to 1,000 health centers in Iraq.

- Rehabilitated 20 delivery rooms serving more than 300,000 residents of Basrah.
- Developing a facility building inventory database for the Ministry of Health consisting of information concerning facilities' type, location, services distribution, cost information and building condition.
- More than 60 primary health clinics are being renovated and over 600 re-equipped to provide life saving health services
- More than 100,000 pregnant and nursing mothers and malnourished children under five have received 2.5 kg of high protein biscuit supplementary food rations.
- Evaluated 18 national and regional public health laboratories for equipment needs.
- Completed the rehabilitation of the National Polio Laboratory.
- Ongoing training of more than 8,000 health workers to identify and treat acutely malnourished children.
- Working with the Iraqi Ministry of Health to develop a Master Plan that will reduce child mortality and increase the level of preventative care available to the Iraqi people.
- Conducted the first training of the master trainers involving medical professionals in public health, community medicine and health care delivery. The master trainers will go on to train an additional 140 medical professionals; the exercise will ultimately branch out to 2,500 medical staff.
- Organized nine working groups within the Ministry of Health to address development issues related to public health; health care delivery; health information systems; pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and equipment; health care finance; education and training; human resources; legislation and regulation; licensing and accreditation.
- Work with the Ministry of Health to assist in the delegation of functions to other entities in the health sector such as NGOs, professional associations, community organizations, and businesses.



Iraqis receive medicine from a primary health care center in the Al-Kargh district of Baghdad, Iraq.
Photo by Thomas Hartwell

Highlights this week:

- Primary healthcare professionals began a 10-day Training of Trainers course. Attendees were instructed in primary care best practices and training techniques and will go on to instruct 350 healthcare providers around the country.
- A two-month analysis of critical health needs in Iraq has been completed by working groups formed by the Iraqi Ministry of Health in collaboration with USAID. The analysis covered issues such as public health, education and training, licensing and legislation. This report will be the basis for a National Strategic Health Plan, which will outline future health sector reform.
- Community nutrition centers in Al Basrah Governorate have been rehabilitated. Supplementary feeding and screening at 62 primary healthcare clinics and community childcare units will benefit about 250 children and pregnant and lactating mothers each month.

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

Accomplishments to Date:

- Provided technical assistance for the resumption of the Ministry of Education (MOE) functions.
- Provided assistance for resumption of Ministry salaries.
- Funded 5.5 million examinations for transitional grades, which ensured the smooth continuation of school.

- Created education coordination groups in north, south and central Iraq.
- Conducted a survey of secondary schools in all permissive areas in the country (3,300 schools total).
- Rehabilitated 1,993 schools during the first term of school year 2003-04.
- Awarded 349 grants worth \$5,188,194 to rehabilitate schools and education Directorate General offices countrywide.
- Provided materials, equipment and supplies:
 - Distributed 1,195,281 secondary school kits that include pens, pencils, paper, math equipment, and other supplies.
 - Distributed 142,762 student desks, 20,755 teacher desks, 52,055 teacher chairs, 17,059 metal cabinets and 58,000 chalkboards.
 - Delivered 808,000 primary student kits.
 - Delivered 81,735 primary teacher kits.
- Reviewed 48 math and science textbooks for grades 1-12.
- Of a planned 5.5 million textbooks being printed, 68 percent have been delivered to Baghdad Directorate Generals and 87 percent to remaining governorates countrywide.
- Trained 258 secondary school master trainers in Baghdad and 153 in the north.
- Training 33,000 secondary school teachers and 3,000 secondary school administration staff in an on-going effort.
- Began accelerated learning program in Baghdad, Nasiriyah, Ad Diwaniyah, and Karbala' on November 15 and in Arbil on November 22 for 566 students.
- Established the Education Management Information System (EMIS) Unit at the Ministry of Education.
- Provided \$15 million to date for 5 US-Iraqi university partnerships, including awards to: 1) a consortium led by Research Foundation of the State University of New York (SUNY/Stony Brook) partnering with Baghdad University, Al Mustansiriyah University/Baghdad, and Mosul University in archeology and environmental research; 2) the University of Hawaii College of Agriculture and Human Resources partnering with the University of Mosul Hamam Al-Alil for strengthening academic, research, and extension programs; 3) the Human Rights Institute at DePaul University College of Law and the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences (Italy) partnering with University of Baghdad to reform the legal education; 4) Jackson State University partnering with University of Mosul for Public Health and Sanitation; and 5) the University of Oklahoma partnering with Al Anbar University, Basrah University, and the University of Salah ad Din in higher education initiatives.



Baghdad, Iraq, October 2003 - Students from the Hala Bint Khuwaylid secondary girl's school in the Amil district of Baghdad with their new school bags.
Photo by Thomas Hartwell

Water and Sanitation -- objectives include: *rehabilitating and repairing essential water infrastructure to provide potable water and sanitation to communities and improve irrigation.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- Immediately after the war, USAID repaired hundreds of critical breaks in Iraq's water network, significantly increasing water flow.
- At Baghdad's Saba Nissan water plant, recently re-named the Sharkh Dijlah water plant, new construction will add 225,000 cubic meters a day to the water supply by May 2004—a 40 percent increase in water supply benefiting 640,000 eastern Baghdad residents.
- Forty-eight compact water treatment plants in An Najaf and Karbala' have been rehabilitated, providing potable water to 100,000 people.

- In Basrah, water supply has been restored to prewar levels through rapid response grants. More than 1.6 million people now have access to water.
- Completed the restoration of the Safwan water system. All 40,000 residents now have access to potable drinking water.
- Rehabilitating the Sweet Water Canal, which provides drinking water to 1.75 million residents of Basrah City. It is currently running at less than half capacity.
 - The project will renovate the entire system including the canal, reservoirs, and water treatment plants, restoring operation to full capacity.
- Back-up electrical generators are being installed at 37 Baghdad water facilities and pumping stations to ensure continuous water supply.
- All of Baghdad's sewage treatment plants will be repaired and running at full capacity by October 2004, serving 3.8 million residents.
 - Rehabilitation is underway at three sewage treatment plants in Baghdad: Old Rustimiyah, Rustimiyah 3, and Kerkh.
 - Rehabilitated 70 of Baghdad's 90 non-functioning waste pumping stations.
- Repairing the Diwaniyah and Karbala sewage treatment plants, which serve 200,000 residents and are currently discharging untreated waste into the Euphrates River.
- Rehabilitating An Najaf and Al Hillah sewage treatment plants to serve 194,000 residents.

Highlights this week:

- Temporary repairs are in place to restore a breach in the Sweet Water Canal. USAID partner Bechtel is working with the Irrigation Directorate to develop a design for a permanent improvement which is expected to cause minimal interruption of the water flow.
 - The damage was caused by a lack of long-term maintenance. Heavy rain and erosion of the concrete-lined channel weakened the canal base, causing the bank to become unstable. The breach has been temporarily filled with compacted soil but permanent repairs will span pipes over the breach, seal them on both sides with concrete, and cover them with clay.
- The Environmental Protection Office and Water Quality Offices of Maysan Governorate have resumed operations after their offices were rehabilitated and re-equipped. The project will benefit all 850,000 residents of Maysan by enabling the local government to monitor water and environmental quality.
- Four hundred solid waste collection points are being constructed in urban Kirkuk (At Tamim Governorate) to improve sanitation and reduce public health risks. One hundred "Keep Your City Clean" signs are being painted in Arabic, English, and Kurdish to encourage residents to use the sites (see photo).
- General civil cleaning at Kerkh sewage treatment plant is making progress, with three-quarters of the inlet chamber and 60 percent of the grit-removal chamber cleaned out. The goal of the cleaning is to remove all liquid and solid waste, repair the concrete, clean and rehabilitate the penstocks, and renovate the building.



3. Expand Economic Opportunity

Economic Growth -- objectives include: currency conversion and monetary data, small businesses credits, commercial legislation, a national employment program, a bank-to-bank payment system, a financial management information system, tax policy and administration, budget planning, insurance, and electricity reform.

Accomplishments to Date:

- The Central Bank program to exchange new dinars for old began on October 15, 2003 and will be completed by January 2004. This will unify and strengthen Iraq's currency, a critical component for sustained economic growth.
 - Monetary authorities now influence the exchange by conducting a daily auction in which banks exchange Iraqi dinars for U.S. dollars.
 - Currently, 5.3 trillion new Iraqi dinars--84 percent of the total--are in country.
- Assisted the Central Bank in procuring and managing a bank-to-bank payment system that allows banks to conduct transactions and other business. Eighty bank branches were part of the system as of late October. Basic training was also provided to bank staff.
- Assisting CPA to manage a microcredit program that provides assistance to banks to strengthen their credit underwriting capacity and increase their lending activities to the small and medium-sized enterprises. Two state-owned banks and seven private sector banks have been recommended for the program.
- Providing a consultant to CPA to assist them in efforts to expand Iraqi employment. More than 55,000 jobs have been created through the CPA-funded National Employment Program, a pilot public works program that intends eventually to generate at least 100,000 temporary Iraqi jobs.
- Reforming and updating commercial laws that will encourage private sector participation, including foreign investment.



Photo by Thomas Hartwell
An Iraqi employee of the Central Bank shows computers awaiting installation in the basement of the building. The computers are part of a USAID-funded "ministry in a box" program.

Highlights this week:

- A new law will exempt nongovernmental and international organizations from duties on goods imported into Iraq. The law is the result of an agreement between officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Planning and Development's NGO Assistance Office.
- Managers from customs offices in Baghdad, Mosul, and As Sulaymaniyah completed training this week on registration and computation of Iraq's reconstruction levy.

Food Security -- *objectives include: providing oversight support for the country-wide public distribution system (PDS), which provides basic food and non-food commodities to approximately 25 million Iraqis; participate in the design of a monetary assistance program to replace the commodity-based PDS in order to support local production and free-market infrastructure, and promoting comprehensive agriculture reform to optimize private participation in production and wholesale markets.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- Worked with the UN/World Food Program (WFP) and Coalition Forces to re-establish Iraq's public distribution system (PDS) in less than 30 days, avoiding a humanitarian food crisis and maintaining food security throughout the country.
- Provided food specialists in Baghdad, Basrah, Al Hillah, and Arbil to support food operations immediately after the conflict and continue to provide support in Arbil and Baghdad to assist with on-going operations and to support the CPA and the Ministry of Trade during the transition of public distribution system responsibilities.
- Provided \$425 million in food and cash to WFP to continue food operations through December 2003. Additional UN/WFP involvement is sought through June 2004.
- Ongoing support and technical assistance to WFP and local Iraqi authorities working in the Ministry of Trade and the Kurdish Food Departments to ensure the smooth transition of PDS management tasks to the

Iraqi government. The initial handover of responsibilities occurred on November 21 without significant problems.

- Ongoing support and technical assistance to WFP to help train local authorities in all aspects of managing the public distribution system, particularly in the northern three governorates.
- Agriculture production and marketing is being coordinated through the public distribution system, which is used by the Ministry of Trade to distribute food rations to 25 million Iraqis.
- The contract for Agriculture Reconstruction and Development in Iraq (ARDI), announced on October 17th, was awarded to Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI).
 - In December 2003-February 2004, USAID will focus on quick-impact activities to stimulate agricultural production: repairing irrigation systems, rehabilitating agriculture colleges, revitalization of the poultry industry and rehabilitating the grain board in Umm Qasr with grain test equipment.
- The \$4-million Marshlands Initiative will include a river basin and hydraulic model of the marshes and the following field activities: Equip a soil and water lab for the Ministry of Water Resources, design pilot projects for waste management and drinking water, and develop a fisheries and aquacultural component along with a livestock component focused on water buffalo.

Highlights this week:

- The Ministry of Water Resources, with USAID assistance, is introducing laser land leveling to permit more precise and uniform application of water. This new technology will improve water-use efficiency at a very low cost.
- Farmers and agribusiness representatives attended roundtables in Arbil and As Sulaymaniyah, which generated discussion on agricultural development in an emerging, market-driven economy.
- Local agribusiness specialists are teaming with international experts to assess the wheat value chain in the north to identify silos and flour mills in need of rehabilitation.

4. Improve Efficiency and Accountability of Government

Local Government -- *objectives include: promote diverse and representative citizen participation within and among communities throughout Iraq; strengthen the management skills and capacity of local administrations, local interim representative bodies, and civic institutions to improve the delivery of essential municipal services; promote effective advocacy and participation of civil society organizations; and enhance leadership skills.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- The local governance program is working in 18 governorates. More than 19 million people are engaging in local policy discourse through local government entities and civil society organizations to:
 - Enhance transparency and participation in local decision-making processes;
 - Restore basic services;
 - Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of local service delivery;
 - Establish, develop, and expand the number of civil society organizations that can interact with local government entities.
- Established an interim structure of government, a Governorate Council, to represent the population in Baghdad and 12 other governorates. Additional local entities include:



Photo by Thomas Hartwell
Mokhtars from Abu Ghayek, one of 15 subdistricts of the Babil Governorate, listen to the basics of democracy and the selection process that will allow for delegates to select 20 members from their communities to a new district council.

- Twenty five city councils, 33 district councils, 36 subdistrict councils, and 224 neighborhood councils. Ninety percent of all districts in Iraq are represented.
- Awarded more than 1,060 grants to local government agencies totaling \$50 million that have restored basic services through transparent public debate and decision.
- Established the Iraqi Women in Local Governance Group in response to the challenge of women’s gross under-representation in political processes across Iraq. The group will develop and guide program activities in order to expand women’s participation at all levels.
- Awarded two grants to the Ministry of Human Rights for the rehabilitation of buildings to house the National Evidence Storage Facility (NESF). The NESF will serve as a venue to analyze recovered documents and store forensic evidence of mass graves and human rights abuses of the Ba’ath government. The NESF is part of a larger effort to help build Iraq’s capacity to investigate complex crimes and implement international law enforcement best practices. Support for the NESF to date totals \$475,000.
- Working with local governance service departments to plan, budget and manage their resources, along with providing training on transparency and accountability in the use of those resources. For example, the team’s work with officials in Dhi Qar resulted in more efficient delivery of public services to over 390,000 residents.
- The local governance team supports the work of 868 Iraqi workers, of which more than half are senior and mid-level professionals.

Highlights this week:

- The formerly Ba’ath dominated town of Busayya (Al Muthanna’ Governorate), began a selection process for a municipal council. Members of the Local Governance Program and Dutch counterparts were welcomed by the town’s residents to develop and implement a transparent, merit-based selection process.
- A civic education task force is planning a nationwide campaign to educate Iraqis on democracy. The Civic Education Campaign will implement a range of activities including convening focus groups in town hall meetings in all provinces and assisting in distribution of hand bills and posters.
- Two Al Hillah neighborhoods participated in their first free selections of neighborhood councils this week. Four hundred residents of Al Bakarly neighborhood and 220 residents of Al Wardiyah participated in the selection of the seven-member councils.
- In cooperation with the Iraqi-American Friendship Assembly, USAID’s Local Governance Program will hold a two-week cultural program on democracy in Kirkuk (At Tamim Governorate). Program activities will aim to promote understanding of Iraq’s transition to democracy.
- On December 10, a delegation of officials representing the Baghdad city administration as well as the city’s interim advisory council met with USAID officials to discuss local governance in Baghdad. The delegates are also visiting Houston, Texas and Denver, Colorado to receive training in city administration and management.



Neighborhood council selections in Al Wardiyah

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

Accomplishments to Date:

- Established 383 Community Action Groups of 400 targeted in 16 Governorates. The projects undertaken by the Community Associations are part of a campaign targeting grassroots democratic development.
 - CAP has committed \$31.8 million for 1,114 community projects across Iraq; 457 projects have already been completed.
 - Iraqi communities have contributed \$9.8 million--a fourth of the total project funding, to community projects. Contributions have included labor, land, buildings, and other in-kind assistance.
 - CHF International has completed 64 projects in 54 communities (29 in Babil, 34 in Karbala' and 3 in An Najaf) for a total value of \$2,969,680. Twenty-six CHF projects worth \$1,806,424 are being implemented and another 28 projects worth \$1,451,900 are being developed.
 - ACDI/VOCA has committed \$2.8 million to 196 projects and has already completed 103 projects, including rehabilitating a youth center in Ar Riyad and repairing trash vehicles in Kirkuk.
 - IRD has committed \$8.4 million to 279 projects and has already completed 99 projects. A marketplace that will serve 250,000 residents is being constructed, and crews are cleaning up medical waste dumps and educating medical personnel on proper disposal methods.
 - Mercy Corps has committed \$7.6 million to 167 projects in Wasit, Al Qadisiyah, and Maysan, including water, hospital, and school renovation. 24 projects have been completed to date.
 - Save the Children has committed \$6.8 million to 354 community projects in Al Basrah, Al Muthanna', and Dhi Qar. 167 projects have already been completed and are focused primarily on immediate community needs such as sewage clean up, water treatment and distribution, health and girls' access to education.

Highlights this week:

- Al Hillah Sports Club, a training center for athletes in basketball, Tae Kwan Do, volleyball, and swimming, was rehabilitated and renovated. Under the previous regime, the club was neglected and significantly damaged when it was occupied by members of the Fedayeen Saddam. The renovation was administered by USAID Community Action Program partner CHF.
 - Maurice "Termite" Watkins, a veteran boxer and member of the 1976 U.S. Olympic team, has established a boxing training camp at Al Hillah Sports Club for 26 professional Iraqi boxers.
- A program to rehabilitate Al Aruba Square, situated in front of Baghdad University Hospital, will include reconstruction of the market's roof, flooring and vendor stalls as well as improvements to a nearby bus depot to reduce congestion. This will improve operations at Baghdad University Hospital by preventing vendor carts and traffic from blocking the flow of emergency vehicles to the hospital. The market's 150 vendors and local shoppers will also benefit from the reconstruction and clean-up.
- Al Taar Veterinary Clinic in Dhi Qar Governorate has been re-equipped and increased its services in assisting the area's 6,000 farmers to treat critical maladies in animals. Threats to the health of livestock in Al Taar, including infectious diseases, jeopardize the livelihood of the community.
- A major project completed in Az Zubair, a community located outside of Al Basrah, has improved water flow to 40,000 residents, 80 percent of Az Zubair. Working with local water authorities, Save the Children provided technical assistance and materials, while the community provided labor.

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2003-2004*				
RECONSTRUCTION				
USAID/ANE			Subtotal:	\$1,538,480,198
	Abt Associates	Health	Countrywide	\$20,995,000
	AFCAP	Logistics	Countrywide	\$91,500,000
	Army Corps of Engineers	Architecture and Engineering services	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
	BearingPoint	Economic Governance	Countrywide	\$39,000,000
	Bechtel National	Airports, buildings, emergency communications, power, railroads, roads and bridges, Umm Qasr seaport, water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$1,029,833,859
	Community Action Program	Development in impoverished communities	Countrywide	\$70,000,000
	DAI	Marshlands	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
	DAI	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
	Fed Source	Personnel Support	Countrywide	\$24,110
	IRG	Reconstruction Support	Countrywide	\$18,286,094
	RTI	Local Governance	Countrywide	\$104,611,000
	CAII	Education	Countrywide	\$37,853,000
	UNICEF	Health, Water, and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$28,000,000
	UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$7,000,000
	UNESCO	Textbook Printing and Distribution: Math and Science	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
	WHO	Strengthen Health System	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
	SSA	Port Management	Umm Qasr	\$14,318,985
	SkyLink	Airport Management	Baghdad Al Basrah Mosul	\$17,500,000
	MSI	Monitoring and Evaluation	Countrywide	\$5,500,000
	University Partners	Consortium led by the Research Foundation of the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook which includes Columbia University, Boston University and Oxford University (England), University of Hawaii, DePaul University College of Law and the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences in Siracusa, Italy; and Jackson State University and the Mississippi Consortium for International Development; and Oklahoma State University.	Baghdad University, Al Mustansiriyah University in Baghdad, Mosul University, Mosul University's College of Agriculture and Forestry in Hamam al-Alil, Basrah University, Al-Anbar University, and University of Salahaddin.	\$15,000,000
	Yankee Group	Telecoms Planning	Countrywide	\$58,150

EMERGENCY RELIEF				
USAID/OFDA				\$82,398,040
	Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$6,838,947
	AirServ	Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,309,876
	ARC	Capacity building, Disaster support	Al Basrah	\$537,746
	The Cuny Center	Research studies	Countrywide	\$40,260
	GOAL	Coordination, Nutrition	Al Muthanna'	\$1,507,900
	International Dispensary Association	Health	Countrywide	\$1,284,972
	InterAction	Coordination	Kuwait City	\$92,860
	IOM	IDP programs	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
	Logistics	Commodities and DART support	Countrywide	\$12,005,804
	UNICEF	Health, nutrition, water/sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
	UN OCHA	Coordination and Information	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
	USAID Amman	Support for emergency water activities	Countrywide	\$500,000
	WFP	Logistics and pre-positioning of food	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
	IMC	Food Security, Health, Nutrition, Water/Sanitation, Capacity building	Countrywide	\$8,202,900
	IRC	Health, Water/Sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,998,685
	Mercy Corps	Health, Non-Food Items, Shelter, Water/Sanitation	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
	SCF/US	Food Security, Health, Shelter, Nutrition, Non-Food Items, Water/Sanitation, NGO Consortium	Countrywide	\$6,883,131
	World Vision	Health, Logistics, Non-Food Items, Water/Sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,994,959
	CARE	Quick-impact projects, Water/Sanitation, Health, Blankets	Countrywide	\$9,000,000
USAID/FFP				\$425,571,000
	WFP	Operations	Countrywide	\$45,000,000
	WFP	Emerson Trust – 81,500 MT	Countrywide	\$40,337,000
	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities – 163,820 MT	Countrywide	\$140,234,000
	WFP	Regional Purchase – 330,000 MT	Countrywide	\$200,000,000
STATE/PRM				\$38,935,691
	UNHCR	Emergency assistance	Countrywide	\$21,000,000
	ICRC	Emergency assistance	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
	IFRC	Emergency assistance	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
	IOM	TCN – transportation assistance	Countrywide	\$3,630,000
	International Catholic Migration Commission	Humanitarian assistance to Iraqi refugees	Lebanon and Jordan	\$1,305,691
USAID/OTI.....				\$71,946,765
	Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$2,653,495
	IOM	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$10,587,595
	DAI	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$48,000,000
	Internews	Media	Countrywide	\$160,359
	Radio SAWA	Media	Countrywide	\$400,000

	NDI/IRI	National Governance	Countrywide	\$400,000
	IFES	National Governance	Countrywide	\$1,042,315
	Spa War	Inter-Ministry Communications	Countrywide	\$8,703,001**
TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ IN FY 2003/2004				\$2,118,396,003
TOTAL STATE ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ IN FY 2003				\$38,935,691
Total STATE/USAID Assistance to Iraq in FY 2003/2004				\$2,157,331,694

* 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.