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

Program Overview:

USAID assists Iraqis in reconstructing their country by working with Iraq’s Interim Government. USAID programs are implemented in coordination with the United Nations, coalition country partners, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector partners. The USAID mission in Iraq carries out programs in education, health care food security, infrastructure reconstruction, airport management, economic growth, community development, democracy and governance, and transition initiatives.

USAID/Iraq implements programs in four strategic areas:
1. Restoring Essential Infrastructure
2. Supporting Essential Health and Education
3. Expanding Economic Opportunity
4. Improving Efficiency and Accountability of Government

USAID provided approximately $1 million of critically needed equipment and supplies to public health and disease control centers in Baghdad.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table of Contents</th>
<th></th>
<th>Economic Growth</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Overview</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Economic Growth</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Food Security</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airports</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umm Qasr Seaport</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Marshlands</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridges, Roads, and Railroads</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Democracy and Governance</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecommunications</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Transition Initiatives</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and Sanitation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Community Action Program</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Financial Summary</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Program Descriptions and Accomplishments

1. Restore Essential Infrastructure

**Electricity** – *Objectives include the emergency repair or rehabilitation of power generation facilities and electrical grids. Teams of engineers from the Ministry of Electricity, USAID, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been working since May of 2003 to restore capacity to Iraq’s power system, which was dilapidated from decades of neglect, mismanagement, and looting.*

**Accomplishments to Date:**
- By October 2003, facilitated the rehabilitation of the national electric grid to produce a peak capacity greater than the pre-war level of 4,400 MW. In June, after months of power reduction for generation unit maintenance, generation began steadily increasing and reached 5,000 MW in July 2004. Daily production is now regularly exceeding 100,000 MW hours.
- Collaborating with other US Government organizations and private sector partners to restore Iraqi electricity on projects to repair thermal units, replace and repair turbines, rehabilitate the transmission network, and install and restore generators.

**Highlights this Week:**
- At Baghdad’s Doura Power Plant, Unit 5 is approximately 65 percent complete and Unit 6 is approximately 59 percent complete. Currently, the plant’s output is minimal as it is undergoing a major overhaul on Units 5 and 6, it has undependable equipment at the other two thermal units, and is experiencing low gas pressure on the four gas units. The overhaul of the two Doura units is one of the most important electrical generation projects managed by USAID and its partners. Crews continue with the installation of lighting in boiler areas, and with electrical cable and battery installation. Once running, both these units will produce about 150 MW each. The other two thermal power generation units at the plant produce about 100 MW each, while the three operating gas turbine units each produce about 75 MW.

**Airports and Seaports** – *Objectives include: providing material and personnel for the timely repair of damaged airport facilities, rehabilitating airport terminals, facilitating humanitarian and commercial flights, and preparing for the eventual handover of airport operations to the Iraqi Airport Commission Authority. Also: managing port administration, coordinating transport from the seaport, and facilitating cargo-handling services such as warehousing, shipment tracking, and storage.*

**Accomplishments to Date:**

**Airport**
- Processing an average of 45 non-military arrivals and departures a day at Baghdad International Airport.
  - More than 5,000 military and NGO flights have arrived and departed at Baghdad International Airport since July 2003.
- Completed sufficient infrastructure work to prepare Baghdad International Airport for commercial air operations.
• Preparing Al Basrah International Airport for commercial operations.

**Highlights this Week:**

• USAID has completed major work at Baghdad International Airport and is working to secure checkpoints and reduce delays. USAID is continuing to work with Coalition Forces and the airport's civilian security to improve access to airport facilities. Recent projects at the airport also include installation of a Land Mobile Radio system, the completion of the perimeter fence and work at the airport’s wastewater and water treatment plants. USAID has also conducted training for airport staff including cargo workers and airport firemen. Roof repairs and HVAC installation continue at airport air traffic control facilities and are online for completion in October 2004. In airfield substation #1, building facility crews are preparing electrical ducts before laying cables and HVAC and fire protection equipment will be delivered over the next eight weeks. Work crews are also connecting the airport to the main 11kV substation in order to provide power for lighting the civilian runway, the VIP terminal, and the heliport. Runway lighting rehabilitation continues.

**Seaport**

• USAID’s $14 million program for the management of the southern Iraqi port of Umm Qasr was completed on June 30.

• Reopened port to commercial traffic June 2003; completed first passenger vessel test in July 2003; Cargo, which has increased by 400% since June 2003, includes bulk grain, bagged rice, sugar, and construction materials.

• Dredged the port to an average depth of 12.5 meters. Previously, the port was 9-10 meters deep, and limited cargo could arrive only during high tide.
  o Two Iraqi dredgers, which have been rehabilitated by USAID, are assisting with maintenance dredging.

• Instituted port tariffs, which provide revenue stream for financially sustainable port operations.

**Accomplishments to Date:**

**Roads, Bridges and Rail** — Objectives include: Rebuilding major transportation routes that were damaged during the conflict or from two decades of neglect in order to restore the flow of goods and services, including humanitarian assistance.

**Bridges**

• Demolished irreparable sections of three key bridges and started reconstruction. Two of the three are complete and have reopened to traffic.

• Repaired a floating bridge on the Tigris River, improving traffic for approximately 50,000 travelers a day.

**Railroads**

• Reconstructing 56 km of rail track between Umm Qasr and Shuaiba Junction near Basrah and 16 km of siding at Umm Qasr Seaport.

**Telecommunications** — Objectives include: install switches to restore service to 240,000 telephone lines in Baghdad area, and repair the nation’s fiber optic network from north of Mosul through Baghdad and Nasiriyah to Umm Qasr.
Accomplishments to Date:
- Handed over the Al Mamoun Telecommunications site to the Ministry of Communications in February 2004. Twelve new telephone switches and an International Satellite Gateway have been integrated with fourteen Iraqi Telephone and Postal Company (ITPC) switches.
- Purchased tools, equipment, and parts to enable Iraqi engineers to restore the network.
- Reconstituted Baghdad area phone service by installing switches with 240,000 lines of capacity. Training Iraqi telephone engineers to ensure continued operations and maintenance of the systems.

Water and Sanitation -- Objectives include: rehabilitate and repair essential water infrastructure to provide potable water and sanitation to communities and improve irrigation.

Accomplishments to Date:
- Rehabilitating sewage and water treatment plants that currently by-pass untreated sewage generated by millions of people into the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.
  - Repairing and rehabilitating water systems throughout Iraq.
  - Repaired hundreds of breaks in Iraq’s critical and long neglected water network, significantly increasing water flow.

Highlights this Week:
- Under USAID’s Infrastructure Reconstruction contract, Iraqi subcontractors are continuing to expand Baghdad’s Shark Diljah water treatment plant. Work at the plant will increase potable water flow to east Baghdad by 45 percent, benefiting 2.5 million people. The expansion will add 200 million liters per day to the water supply. Construction is underway on the foundation of the chlorine building and the alum building is being plastered and painted. The chlorine and alum buildings store the chemicals and machinery used to pump them into the water for treatment. Chlorine is a chemical that kills bacteria in water; alum is a settling agent that is used to remove turbidity in water.
- A U.S. NGO is partnering with USAID to rehabilitate 87 compact water treatment units in rural areas of Diyala, Babil, Thi Qar, Karbala, Wassit and Muthanna Governorates. The units vary in water production capacity from 15m³ to 50m³/hour and can potentially provide sufficient clean water to meet the daily needs of 200,000 persons. The project is about 75 percent complete. Selection of the units was based on site assessments and consultations with the governorates’ various water directorates. The NGO is ensuring the sustainability of the project by providing training workshops on maintenance and operations to staff that have been selected by the water directorate and the community. The project began 10 months ago and...
currently all but one compact unit is functioning properly. The project includes hygiene and basic health education campaigns primarily targeting women and children and focusing on the prevention of water borne disease transmission. To date, the entire program has reached 224,000 persons.

- A U.S. NGO is partnering with USAID to provide clean water to a village of 300 recent internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Al Qadisiyah Governorate through temporary tankering and the construction of a 1.5 km water network connecting the village to a nearby water treatment plant. The NGO will also carry out emergency repairs to the plant and training for its operators and technicians. Community-based hygiene education will also be provided to the villagers. The villagers were displaced after the recent conflict by Kurds returning to reclaim their homes and lands which had been given to Arabs during the former regime. These IDPs of Arabic ethnicity now live in small houses which they constructed of brick and mud. The settlement is considered permanent as the chances of their return is remote. Currently there is no potable water source accessible to the village residents, and water is taken from an irrigation canal, which puts the health of the population at risk. Diarrheal diseases, many of which are caused by water-borne illnesses, are the primary health risk for children under the age of five in Iraq. The villagers are also susceptible to hygiene related illnesses as they lack access to clean water for washing, cooking and cleaning. Under this newly approved project, the NGO will immediately begin tankering water to the villagers. As this is considered a temporary measure, the NGO will mobilize the residents to collect water directly from the tankers for the eight week time period needed to complete the repairs to the plant and to install the connecting water network.

- At the wastewater treatment plant in An Najaf, civil work is complete and crews have begun to load 8,000 cubic meters of biofilter media into the clarifying tanks. Biofilter media are small plastic perforated spheres that reduce the organic content of wastewater. Crews have completed rebuilding the digester gas compressors that compact the raw sewage for storage and for faster decomposition and have finalized dredging of the temporary sedimentation lagoon and returned it to continuous operation. The mechanical and electrical subcontract is now approximately 58 percent complete. Under this project, full sewage processing and treatment capabilities will be restored to 141,000 people in An Najaf by December 2004.

- The Najaf water treatment plant, called Al Zarga plant, is located in central Iraq and is being rehabilitated by USAID. It will benefit all of An Najaf city’s 563,000 residents when it is completed in August 2004. Civil work has already been completed. Major work now includes repairing the filter beds, pumping systems and the sedimentation tank system. Thirty-seven of forty filter beds have been completed and returned to full service. The Iraqi subcontractor is also installing a new chlorination system and is removing the existing sludge pumps for refurbishment.
2. Support Essential Health and Education

Health -- Objectives include: supporting a reformed Iraqi Ministry of Health, delivering essential health services, funding vaccines and high protein biscuits for pregnant and 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.

Accomplishments to Date:
- Rehabilitating 110 primary health care clinics throughout the country.
- Delivering primary healthcare kits to 600 clinics countrywide.
- Training more than 750 primary healthcare providers in maternal and child health services.
- Training health providers and communities on prevention and early intervention on causes of child mortality such as diarrhea.
- Re-establishing the country’s vital disease surveillance system.
- Supporting $1.3 million in grants for Iraqi NGO and civil society healthcare efforts.
- Distributing eight million liters of clean water a day.
- Immunized more than three million children under the age of five through routine immunization activities and five million school aged children aged 6-12 against measles, mumps and rubella.
- Administered tetanus toxoid vaccine to more than 700,000 pregnant women.
- Distributing high-protein biscuits to more than 240,000 children and pregnant and nursing mothers.
- Supporting the development of a strategic plan to guide sector development over the next several years.

Highlights this Week:
- USAID has procured and provided approximately $1 million of critically needed equipment and supplies to public health and disease control centers in Baghdad. The equipment and supplies, many of which replaced those looted after the recent conflict, include items such as microscopes, freezers and refrigerators, centrifuges, lab sinks, tissue processors, slides, petri dishes, specialized testing agents and an amino acid analyzer—the first of its kind in Iraq. USAID also supplied computers and computer systems for the laboratories that have proved invaluable in their ability to collect, store and analyze data, leading to a much more effective system for tracking trends of various infectious and communicable diseases. The centers now have an adequately functioning health surveillance system that allows for the detection of infectious diseases, outbreaks and emerging diseases, and for the evaluation of the effectiveness of health interventions. Once the laboratories are fully functioning, approximately 408,000 people will benefit annually. However, tracking disease trends, particularly infectious and communicable diseases, will benefit the entire Iraqi population. USAID also provided laboratory staff with the appropriate training to properly utilize and maintain the equipment through eleven training workshops for the lab technicians. The training sessions discussed topics such as diarrheal diseases, hospital acquired infections, immunohistochemistry, sexually transmitted diseases and community acquired respiratory diseases.

Inside the Central Public Health Laboratory
**Accomplishments to Date:**

- **Immediately After the Conflict**
  - Provided technical assistance for the resumption of education functions and salaries.
  - Funded 5.5 million examinations for transitional grades, which ensured the smooth continuation of education.

- **Facilities and Supplies**
  - Awarded 627 grants worth more than $6 million to rehabilitate schools and equip Directorates General.
  - Rehabilitated 2,358 schools countrywide for the first term of the 2003/04 school year.
  - Provided materials, equipment and supplies:
    - Distributed nearly 1.5 million secondary school kits that included pens, pencils, paper, math supplies, and other essentials.
    - Distributed 159,005 student desks, 26,437 teacher desks, 59,940 teacher chairs, 26,050 metal cabinets, 61,500 chalkboards, and 58,500 teacher kits.
    - Delivered 808,000 primary student kits.
    - Delivered 81,735 primary teacher kits.
  - In consultation with the Iraqi Ministry of Education, reviewed 48 math and science textbooks for grades 1 through 12.
  - Printed and distributed 8,759,260 math and science textbooks throughout Iraq.

- **Institutional Strengthening**
  - Trained 860 secondary school Teacher Trainers during September 2003 to January 2004 nationwide.
  - Trained 31,772 secondary school teachers and administration staff.
  - 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 in the program.
  - Approximately 87 percent of the students passed the year end exams and will now be integrated into the main school system.

- **Higher Education**
  - Supporting the Higher Education and Development (HEAD) Program. Awarded five grants worth an estimated $20.7 million for U.S.-Iraqi university partnerships. The program supports rehabilitation of research laboratories, rebuilding library resources and establishing internet centers; invigorating academic human resources and university administration leadership through workshops, seminars, conferences, research grants and one year graduate studies in the U.S.; stimulating curriculum development through introduction of supplementary new materials.
  - In collaboration with Iraqi university partners, research laboratory needs assessments have been completed and procurement is underway; library facilities and internet centers have been rehabilitated and prepared for receiving...
materials and equipment; workshops, seminars and conferences are underway allowing senior Iraqi faculty to present papers in an international forum.

**Highlights this Week:**

- The new edition of the Iraqi Journal of Agricultural Sciences was published this week. The new edition is sponsored by USAID’s Higher Education and Development project and is published by the College of Agriculture and Forestry at a university in northern Iraq. The new edition includes an article discussing the HEAD program’s goals in Agricultural academics as well as 19 other papers on Agriculture Economics, Horticulture, Soil Science, Animal Production, Forestry, Field Crops, Plant Protection and Food Science. Sponsoring the Iraqi Journal of Agricultural Sciences is a significant step toward research enhancement and faculty development after decades of detachment from international standards of higher education in agriculture.

- A summer workshop is underway for 55 Iraqi archaeology faculty and graduate students. The workshop runs from June 19 to August 26 at an American research center and consists of archaeology lectures, small group sessions, visits to archaeological sites and library research. Formal lecture sessions are held in the mornings and small group sessions in the afternoons to read cuneiform texts and work with new archeological technology, software, and internet materials. The technological demonstrations will include sessions on Electronic Distance Measurement technology, Global Positioning System, and magnetic gradiometry. Participants will also have the opportunity to visit museums and archaeological sites in Jordan. This workshop is being developed as part of the Archeology and Assyriology program under USAID’s Higher Education and Development program. The program seeks to strengthen archeology and cuneiform studies at major Iraqi universities by providing training, reequipping research libraries, introducing new curricula, and exposing the universities to the latest developments in Archeology.

- A teacher training institute in a major city in Al Anbar governorate has recently been renovated. The institute trains women from throughout the governorate to be teachers, the primary vocation for women in the region; two shifts of classes are offered daily to about 1,000 women. A community committee that included faculty and female students identified critical needs for the renovation project such as additional classrooms, modern equipment and school supplies. USAID, in cooperation with the community committee and local contractors, renovated and added classrooms, distributed new teaching equipment and provided school supplies. The rehabilitation of the teacher’s training institute will help improve education in the governorate.

- Four Iraqi students have been admitted into a graduate program in Mesopotamian archaeology at a US-based university and arrived in the U.S. in July. After settling into their dormitories and campus life, they began an intensive English program. In addition to their English instruction they will attend a daily seminar, where they will learn to discuss and critique current research in Mesopotamian archaeology. They will also have the opportunity to attend a class on landscape archaeology, which focuses on work in the near east.

- Twelve hundred volumes of classic, rare, out-of-print, and out-of-copyright archaeological and assyriological books were purchased and have arrived at an American university to be prepared for shipping to Iraq. Some books will be retained for digitization and the rest will be forwarded to libraries at the two Iraqi universities working with USAID’s higher education archaeology initiative. A partner library sciences NGO working with USAID in the U.S. has received a further 2,000 post-1990

![Some of the 1,200 Archaeology and Assyriology books donated by a retiring Professor of Assyriology](image)
scholarly books on near eastern archaeology, has completed cataloguing and is preparing them for shipping.

3. Expand Economic Opportunity

**Economic Growth** – Substantive areas include: currency conversion, development of economic statistics, rationalizing small business credit, drafting commercial legislation, supporting a national employment program, strengthening micro-finance programs, creating a bank-to-bank payment system, implementing a computerized financial management information system, developing a tax policy and administration, budget planning, insurance reform, telecommunications reform, and electricity reform.

**Accomplishments to Date:**

**Financial**
- Strengthening accounting, budgeting and lending activities at Iraq’s commercial banks.
- Evaluating and updating commercial laws pertaining to private sector and foreign investment; assisted in the development of the new company law.
- Recommended reforms for insurance regulations and trained Iraqi insurance staff.
- Improved statistical analysis, monetary policymaking, and bank supervision procedures at Iraq’s Central Bank.

**Fiscal**
- Assisting in developing, installing and training staff to use the Financial Management Information System (FMIS), a new accounting and reporting system for all Iraqi ministries.
- Assisted in developing the reconstruction levy in collaboration with the CPA and the UK Customs Service; this levy imposes a five percent tariff on imports to Iraq.

**Private sector development**
- Providing technical assistance as well as information on contracting opportunities for Iraqi businesses through business centers.
- Assisting Iraqi companies to prepare applications for loans ranging from $2 to 5 million through the firm-level assistance program.
- Created more than 77,000 public works jobs through the National Employment Program.
- Assisted CPA in managing a $21-million micro-credit program.
- Provided technical assistance 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.

**Utilities and Regulation**
- Developed an Electricity Master Plan and a Telecommunications Master Plan as a basis for reforms in these two sectors.

**Special projects**
- With the Ministry of Finance, introduced the new national currency, the Iraqi dinar.
  - The currency exchange began on October 15, 2003, and was completed on January 15.
  - An estimated 6.36 trillion new Iraqi dinars are now in Iraq, and 4.62 trillion Iraqi dinars are circulating—106 percent of the original demand estimate of 4.36 trillion.
- Provided technical assistance for the Oil for Food transition to prepare Iraqi ministries to assume responsibility for OFF contracts.
- Developed a government-wide IT strategy to support the automation of planning, budgeting and reporting processes across ministries.
Food Security -- Objectives include: providing oversight support for the countrywide Public Distribution System, which provides basic food and non-food commodities to an estimated 25 million Iraqis, participating in the design of a monetary assistance program to replace the commodity-based distribution system to support local production and free-market infrastructure, and promoting comprehensive agriculture reform to optimize private participation in production and wholesale markets.

Accomplishments to Date:
• Worked with the UN World Food Program (WFP) to re-establish the Public Distribution System in less than 30 days, avoiding a humanitarian food crisis and maintaining food security.
• Contributed cash and food aid totaling $425 million to WFP’s emergency operations immediately following the conflict, making the U.S. the foremost contributor to WFP emergency operations in Iraq.
• Provided ongoing support and technical assistance to WFP and local Iraqi authorities in the Ministry of Trade and the Kurdish Food Departments to ensure the smooth transition of PDS management tasks to the Iraqi government.
• Played a role in negotiating a memorandum of understanding between the CPA, the Ministry of Trade, and the WFP that details areas of responsibility including: capacity building and training, procurement of food commodities, renegotiation of food contracts, shipment and overland transport of food commodities, and pipeline management. The WFP will continue to support the public distribution system through June 2004 and will begin work immediately to assure continuation of food deliveries.
• Currently providing food aid expertise to the Ministry of Trade and assisting WFP and the Ministry to continue to distribute food to all Iraqis.

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

Accomplishments to Date:
Since October 2003, USAID has been implementing the Agricultural Reconstruction and Development Program for Iraq (ARDI) to formulate a long-term vision for the sector, while designing activities for quick impact including:
• Summer and Winter Crop Technology Demonstrations: On 334 hectares in 15 governorates, 128 farm families established plots with new winter crop varieties for extension field days. Under the summer demonstration program, farmers are planting vegetables, maize, and rice.
• Veterinary Hospital Renovation: The renovation of a hospital in At’ Tamim Governorate was completed in early April 2003 under a $96,000 ARDI grant; the hospital serves more than 100,000 livestock in the area.
• Veterinary Clinic Rehabilitation: This project was completed in early April 2003 through a $50,000 grant which was matched by supplies and equipment from the Ministry of Agriculture. These rural clinics are the two principal sources of vaccines and medicines for animals in 125 local communities.
• Internet Connectivity and Repairs to a Student Union Building: The School of Agriculture at an Iraqi university will receive a $75,000 grant that will benefit 4,509 students.
• Seven grants, totaling $394,000, were approved in February 2004 to build the capacity of Iraq’s agriculture sector. The grants’ emphasis on veterinary programs allows an immediate, highly visible response to the challenges that face herders and farmers in the north and central regions.
• The Ministry of Agriculture is establishing 18 date palm nurseries throughout Iraq in support of its goal to reestablish Iraq’s dominant position in the international date market, a position it lost under the former regime. Dates are a national treasure for Iraq with both symbolic and economic significance. This project,
which receives support and technical assistance from USAID, will ensure the preservation of Iraq’s 621 varieties of date palm.

- Developed a transition plan for the Iraq Ministry of Agriculture to move the agricultural sector from a command and control production and marketing system to one which is market-driven.
- Initiated an agricultural extension services program for farmers in late May. Extension agents are working with farmers to teach agricultural best practices by encouraging farmers to analyze their own problems and independently develop solutions. In collaboration with USAID, the Ministry of Agriculture expects to replicate the program in other villages, as extension services have been successful in increasing agricultural productivity in developing countries around the world.

**Highlights this Week:**

- USAID’s Agriculture Reconstruction and Development program for Iraq (ARDI) and the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) met last week to discuss the expansion of the Summer Crop Demonstration Program to include vegetable farmers. Although working with vegetables farmers is a goal of the Summer Crop program, work demonstrating crops and technology with vegetable producers has been limited, to date. Collaboration among farmers, researchers, MOA staff, and the university community on improving vegetable growing techniques has also been limited. ARDI and the MOA are now planning collaboration on an assessment program for the 2004-2005 growing season for two vegetable crops in the north: radishes and Swiss chard. The project will increase vegetable farmer incomes, increase farmer involvement in technology assessment activities, and link farmers, researchers, MOA staff, and agriculture college students.

- USAID’s Agriculture Reconstruction and Development Program for Iraq (ARDI) is working with the Ministry of Agriculture, local veterinary officials, the civil affairs officer and a university in northern Iraq to fund a program that will provide practical training for veterinary students in zoonotic disease detection, prevention and control. The goal is to augment the practical training of future veterinarians and to thus reduce the rates of three reportable human diseases (hydatid disease, Brucellosis and Salmonellosis) and other unreported zoonotic diseases among the human population of Mosul.

- ARDI provided a grant for the refurbishment of a veterinary laboratory at a college in Baghdad. The lab had not been functional for the past ten years due to lack of funding. Repairs to the microbiology equipment at the lab are now nearly complete. With functioning equipment such as autoclaves, centrifuges and electrophoresis equipment, the students at the college can learn the techniques and skills they will need for diagnosis of a variety of common animal diseases

- The ARDI program provided computers, software and furniture for a computer and Internet center at the main research and consultancy center of the Ministry of Agriculture. At a recent follow-up meeting, ARDI’s grant manager was pleased to see the center functioning well – with researchers and staff preparing presentations, and using the center to accomplish tasks they were not able to do before. Training is being conducted on Windows, MS Office, Internet, E-mail and statistical software. The training sessions are open to all staff of the center and students from the nearby Colleges of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. Approximately 50% of trainees are women. This center is a part of a larger effort to rehabilitate the State Board for Agricultural Research being conducted by USAID.

![Swiss Chard Farming](image-url)
Excavation and ground preparation is underway for the installation of six sheep dipping tanks in a rural district in Dahuk Governorate. Sheep dipping tanks are needed to keep animals clean of parasites—scabs, blowfly, ticks, and lice—important for the general well being of the sheep and the handlers. Pest control using dip tanks can increase the value of the shorn wool by up to 33%. Approximately 75% of the population of the district depends on raising sheep as a livelihood. Although some revenue comes from sheep sold for meat, the farmers’ income is primarily generated through selling shorn wool. The tanks are expected to be completed this month; construction is being supervised by a local veterinary clinic and the technical specifications are in accordance with the standards of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Funding for the installation of the sheep dipping tanks comes from a grant under USAID’s Agriculture Reconstruction and Development Program for Iraq (ARDI) to build the capacity of Iraq’s agriculture sector. Seven grants were approved in February to assist veterinary programs servicing herders and farmers in the North and Central Regions.

USAID’s Agriculture Reconstruction and Development program for Iraq is extending its demonstration programs to include a Vegetable Research and Extension Project in Arbil Governorate. The project has a dual emphasis on team work among research, extension, and other agriculture branch staff as well as farmer assessment of practices and technologies in Swiss chard and radish production. USAID recently visited a Ministry of Agriculture branch in Arbil to discuss the project and meet with Swiss chard farmers. As part of the Vegetable Demonstration Project, participating farmers will be asked to assess the value of their planting, irrigation, weeding and harvesting practices as compared to the demonstration plots. Much of the visit focused on learning from farmers about the current production of Swiss chard. Swiss chard farmers in the area were invited to describe their farming practices. Visits to their fields helped to better understand the farming system, their problems and opportunities. The information obtained—along with data from other sources—will be used to improve and expand on Ministry of Agriculture recommendations for chard production which are in need of additional detail and updating.

The Ad Diwaniyah Local Governance Program team has received a grant from USAID’s Agriculture Reconstruction and Development for Iraq (ARDI) program to purchase 15 drip irrigation systems which will benefit the farmers throughout the governorate. The total area irrigated will be 7,500 square meters and installation will begin in one week. This grant was secured by an entirely Iraqi national staff, without the assistance of an international advisor. This accomplishment shows how Iraqi national staff has benefited from their exposure to western mentors and now has a firm grasp of development realities.

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

Accomplishments to Date:

- Operating at both national and regional levels, the Marshlands Restoration Program developed an integrated strategy for wetland restoration and management and is providing social and economic assistance to Marsh Arabs.
- The first date palm nursery was established with 1,000 mother trees of different varieties. The trees will produce 10,000 off-shoots, of which about 7,000 will survive.
- The Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Public Works have selected a first site to build a constructed wetlands for treating domestic wastewater. The service area is the largest settlement in the marshlands, and will serve roughly 5,000 people.
- Demonstrations of alfalfa cultivation to improve livestock nutrition and dairy production in five locations are ongoing.
- The program will re-establish a water and soil laboratory in the Ministry of Water Resources headquarters in Baghdad. A proposed list of equipment has been developed and is being reviewed by the Ministry staff for immediate procurement and training in their use.
• The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Ministry of Water Resources are jointly developing a hydrologic model of the Tigris and Euphrates basin.
• Work began on setting up demonstration plots for field crops and horticulture in eight locations in the marshlands. Plans are underway to do soil and water analyses at possible demonstration sites. The program is recruiting staff to implement the establishment of date palm nurseries for growing and distributing off-shoots.
• Representatives from the Iraq Marshlands Restoration Program and USAID attended a water resources management academic conference in the Netherlands. Also, the Minister of Water Resources just returned from a study tour of the U.S. that included a tour of the Mississippi Delta. USAID’s $4-million marshlands initiative includes these study tours as a primary objective in order to strengthen the skills and international linkages of Iraqi academics and scientists.

4. Improve Efficiency and Accountability of Government

Accomplishments to Date:
• Implementing local governance activities in 18 governorates, engaging Iraqis in policy discourse through local government entities and civil society organizations to:
  o Enhance transparency and participation in local decision-making processes.
  o Restore basic services.
  o Improve the effectiveness of local service delivery.
  o Establish, develop and expand the number of civil society organizations that can interact with local government entities.
• Established or refreshed 16 governorate councils, 91 district councils, 194 city or subdistrict councils, and 445 neighborhood councils.
• Awarded $15.5 million to government agencies and civil society organizations to enable municipal authorities to deliver core municipal services.
• Committed $2.4 million to support the CPA’s nationwide Civic Education Campaign, which facilitates dialogue and increases democracy awareness.
• Conducted more than 19,000 democracy dialogue activities throughout Iraq.

Highlights this Week:
• USAID’s Local Governance Program (LGP) continues to work with local governments to renovate their working spaces. In addition to rehabilitating public utilities buildings such as ports, airports, fire stations, and power stations, these efforts have been a primary focus since the beginning of reconstruction. The Mayor’s Office of Baghdad with USAID’s Baghdad LGP staff completed renovation of offices at City Hall for the Baghdad City Council and its staff. New workspace was created for advisory council members and subcommittee staff. The renovation will enhance productivity of Council members and their staff which have been convening and meeting in borrowed spaces throughout the city. Similarly, USAID’s Nasiriyah LGP staff completed renovation of office space for the Dhi-Qar Municipality Directorate. The Municipality Directorate has budgeted for new office equipment and furnishings for the newly renovated offices to create a more productive work environment for its more than 40 employees.
• USAID’s Local Governance Program Civic Participation Group in Baghdad improves the role of local communities in the social and political transformation of Iraqi society. The LGP has continued an advisory relationship with members of the District Action Committees (DAC), Neighborhood Action Committees (NAC), Qadas, and Nahiyas and has helped many of these councils facilitate their meetings to adequately address public needs.
• USAID’s Local Governance Program is improving the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service departments. Workshops, on the job training, formal seminars, and study tours are offered throughout Iraq. This assistance builds Iraqis’ capacity to plan, budget, implement, and manage public service delivery programs. Although most of the Iraqi technical personnel are well trained in their
Transition Initiatives -- Objectives include: building and sustaining Iraqi confidence in the transition to a participatory, stable, and democratic Iraq and working closely with the CPA. USAID’s Iraq Transition Initiative assists Iraqi NGOs, national government institutions, and local governments to increase Iraqi support for the transition to sovereignty through quick-dispersing, high impact small grants.

Professional specialties, customer satisfaction and accountability to the public are being emphasized in the training, as they were not priorities in the past. Recent training activities include:

- In Babil Governorate, LGP specialists conducted a training session on budgeting for nine officials from the regional electricity department. LGP staff also conducted a training session on forming by-laws for 60 councilors from four neighborhoods of a major city in the governorate.
- Baghdad’s Local Governance Team concluded three training sessions for 68 staff members of the Mayorality to help improve operational efficiency and enhance management capabilities. Two basic computer training sessions in Microsoft Word were delivered to 48 participants in the Mayorality’s Training Center. A 12-week training session in management supervision was also delivered to 20 participants.
- Ad Diwaniyah Governorate’s LGP staff conducted a workshop on human rights, the Transition Administrative Law, democracy, and elections for local department managers.

- A local government council in southern Iraq received a grant from USAID to renovate and expand a community market. The number of merchants utilizing the market has grown but there isn’t adequate space to house them and their goods and increased traffic and trash is becoming a serious public health and safety hazard. Community members, as well as vendors have appealed to the local government to provide a solution that will allow the business of the marketplace to thrive while meeting the needs of the public. The grant from USAID will provide technical assistance and construction materials to expand the market space by 400 stalls. The project will promote transparency, accountability and cooperation between government officials, merchants and local citizens and demonstrate how an empowered local government can respond to the needs of the community.
- The Babil Governorate Information Center continues to expand its curriculum of courses for local government officials, offering full courses in topics such as Organizational Development and shorter presentations on Quality Control, Strategic Planning, and Computer programs. The Center’s courses are being presented in collaboration with USAID’s Local Governance Program that works with village, town and provincial leaders on building their administrative capacity to address the immediate needs of Iraqi citizens, including restoring essential utilities.

Accomplishments to Date:

- Awarded 1,459 small grants totaling more than $109 million for quick impact activities that support good governance, civil society, conflict management and mitigation, human rights and transitional justice.
- Supporting initiatives crucial to the democratic transition, including civic education, civil society and media development, increased women’s participation, conflict mitigation and transitional justice. Groups targeted for assistance include women’s and youth groups, professional associations and human rights organizations.
- Met critical needs during 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.
- Funded over 60 grants totaling $3 million that focus on women’s issues, including supporting the establishment of 14 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.

Highlights this Week:

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Highlights this Week:
• To date, USAID’s Iraq Transition Initiative has awarded 1,396 small grants for quick impact activities that support good governance, civil society, conflict management and mitigation, human rights and transitional justice. Recent grants include:
  o 113 grants will create over 11,000 three-month, short-term jobs on neighborhood infrastructure projects for Baghdad residents. USAID is collaborating with the US Military on this initiative.
  o 18 grants in support of the Mayor of Baghdad’s summer employment program, presently employing 10,000 Baghdad residents.
• The USAID Iraq Transition Initiative is coordinating with other organizations to contribute to the development of a business support center in northern Iraq. A grant will rehabilitate a facility and provide office furniture and equipment to allow the newly established business support NGO to begin work. The center will aid small and medium-sized businesses by providing consulting, training and business support services as well as financing opportunities. The NGO will add to the area’s economy by promoting the creation of new jobs for the unemployed and underemployed and by encouraging the development of new business ventures through its business incubator services. To date, the Iraq Transition Initiative has awarded 1,396 small grants for quick impact activities that support good governance, civil society, conflict management and mitigation, human rights and transitional justice.
• An organization of actors in southern Iraq will receive support from USAID’s Iraq Transition Initiative (ITI) to present a theater festival this summer. Historically, Iraq had a thriving cultural community. Under the former regime, however, freedom of expression was restrained. The actors’ group is coordinating with other local artistic unions to write, produce and perform a number of plays that focus on promoting artistic freedoms and the right of free expression. A grant will support the costs of the festival, including the cost of producing the plays and materials to promote the festival.
• A women’s association in northern Iraq will receive a grant from ITI to furnish and equip a new center for their activities. The organization was established in 2001 and has since been operating out of private homes. The focus of their work is to promote a democratic society of free women and men, and to end the subjugation of women by groups with extremist beliefs. Recently, the group has sponsored workshops in various cities throughout the country educating women on how to be effective participants in elections. This grant will provide a place for women in the region to meet, develop an understanding of people from different backgrounds and cultural and religious heritages, and to improve opportunities and the quality of life for all women in Iraq.

Community Action Program – Objectives include: promoting diverse, representative citizen participation in and among communities to identify, prioritize, and satisfy critical community needs, while utilizing local resources. CAP is implemented by five U.S. NGOs with offices in nine major Iraqi cities. Each NGO concentrates on one region in Iraq, which includes the north, south, southwest central, southeast central, and Baghdad regions.

Accomplishments to Date:
• Established more than 670 Community Action Groups in 17 governorates. The projects undertaken by these groups are part of a campaign targeting grassroots democratic development.
• CAP has committed $78 million for 1,485 projects across Iraq; 1,145 projects have been completed.
• Iraqi communities have contributed more than 25 percent of the value of the community projects. Contributions have included labor, land, buildings, and other in-kind assistance.
• The north program focuses on areas of Mosul, Kirkuk and the Iran-Iraq border. Their work has resulted in 259 completed projects and another 44 in development. These include establishing a youth center in At’ Tamim Governorate and developing a new local water supply in Salah ad Din Governorate.
• The southwest central program has established a strong presence in the Shi’ia holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, as well as Hillah by facilitating very active community associations. A strong emphasis on critical infrastructure needs has provided these communities with results such as sewage and water rehabilitation, school repairs, swamp clean-up and repairs to vital social infrastructure. They have completed 125 projects.

• The Baghdad program has completed 278 projects in working with 142 community action groups. Income generation is an important emphasis. A marketplace for over 700 vendors is being constructed, and crews are cleaning up medical waste dumps and educating medical personnel on proper disposal methods.

• The southeast central program has completed 122 projects and 88 more are in development. In the Shi’i heartland, these projects are addressing needs resulting from decades of governmental neglect and focus on water, sewerage, community clean-up and school rehabilitation.

• The south program has completed 361 projects through 138 community action groups which average 33 percent women’s participation. Projects have focused primarily on immediate community needs such as sewage clean up, water treatment and distribution, public health, and girls’ access to education.

**Highlights this Week:**

• In communities in southeast Iraq, Persons with Disabilities advisors will begin to work with USAID’s Community Action Program (CAP) as mediators between USAID and groups representing disabled persons in order to better understand and address the needs of the beneficiaries. Group advisors are currently receiving training from a U.S. NGO on designing rights-based advocacy projects to benefit disabled individuals in their governorates.

• USAID’s CAP is repairing sports facilities, classrooms, toilets, and the theater at a Maysan governorate primary school for boys. Built in 1957, the school is one of a handful in Maysan governorate with a theater. Since its construction, the school suffered from poor maintenance, and was in very poor condition prior to its rehabilitation. The school houses 370 students, and 30 teachers. Activities planned in this theater include extra-curricular drama classes, theater productions and events for the school, other schools and the community at large.

• A teacher’s training school in Maysan Governorate is also being rehabilitated through a CAP project. Teachers at the school are volunteering to provide English classes, free of charge, local women. Additionally, the Community Action Group is supporting English classes at the school by opening up the almost fully rehabilitated boarding school facilities to intermediate school students on summer vacation. Teachers are preparing an exam for the women and young girls who participated in these classes and will be awarding prizes to the three best students of each round of classes.

• A rural village in Al Anbar Governorate worked with USAID’s Community Action Program to improve their utilities infrastructure. Based on the community’s self identified needs, USAID worked with village laborers and contractors to install a water network providing safe drinking water to every household. For years, residents of the farming village have been forced to use nearby rivers due to years of governmental neglect. Work with the village’s newly formed Community Action Group continued with the installation of a water network.
of street lighting and finally, on paving one kilometer of the main road. The project employed over 150 village laborers.

- USAID’s Community Action Program recently restored an irrigation station in At Tamim governorate that had been working well below capacity since pipes were damaged in 1991. As a result of the damage, the station could no longer provide enough water to farmers who were totally dependent on agricultural operations for their incomes. This eroded the core of the region’s economy and affected its survival. The objective of the project was to restore the irrigation system and help farmers expand production and income. The restoration—which included repair to the automatic water drop and installation of new pipes—fully restored the facility to regular operation thereby increasing the local water supply for irrigation. The project will benefit some 30 farms and about 230 individual farmers. Already one can see more fruit and sunflowers blooming in the area.

- The rehabilitation of a major apartment building in an Al Anbar Governorate city is complete. The apartment rehabilitation was the inaugural project in the governorate. The rehabilitation of the apartments will reduce health and crime risks for its 200 residents. The building was first constructed in 1985 for governmental employees and had no drainpipes or underground sewers, causing significant environmental and health problems in the community. The rate of disease is very high there, particularly among children. The project removed standing sewage, installed pipes and manholes, and connected them to the main sewage network. In addition, the entire area surrounding the apartment complex was cleaned and planted with grass, sidewalks were paved, and lights installed. USAID provided technical assistance and seed funding for the project, while the community contributed labor and resources to repair and upgrade the water and sewage networks.

- An Iraqi NGO in At Tamim governorate collaborated with USAID’s Community Action Program to improve their sewing center that had been providing employment opportunities for women. Few job opportunities exist in the governorate and those that were available were usually not for skilled labor. As a result, unemployment among women was very high. The NGO wanted to take the center to the next level by making it self-sufficient and sustainable in order to provide long-term job and income generation to these women. The plan was to expand the facilities, upgrade the equipment, and provide the center with better training facilities by teaching 500 women to use a sewing machine. USAID and the Iraqi NGO had the building renovated and supplied 30 industrial sewing machines and rotary chairs, 25 steam irons, a button holer and sewor, and an industrial steam iron. The center’s production is marketed locally and generates revenue for the center and its sponsor, the Iraqi NGO.

- Community Action Groups (CAG) in Al Anbar Governorate worked with USAID to distribute emergency relief to Internally Displaced Persons from Falluja. Utilizing detailed reports provided by the CAGs, USAID assembled boxes of dried food and drinking water to distribute to Fallujah families who fled to nearby villages during the April 2004 hostilities. USAID provided 600 boxes of dried food and 600 boxes of bottled water to displaced families who settled in Al Anbar rural communities. As part of this program, USAID also distributed boxes of bottled water to temporary health centers established in rural Al Anbar to address the health care needs of displaced families.

- An urban community in Karbala’ governorate is working with USAID’s Community Action Program (CAP) to rebuild their school and install a perimeter fence. This project will directly benefit 2,000 people. A member of the community recently stated that the youth in the area have abandoned school due to the “bad conditions of the only school.” The community, which is inhabited mostly by Shi’a Muslims, has suffered years of state sanctioned and systemic neglect and corruption resulting in high rates of unemployment, crumbling infrastructure and poverty. The school building is old and has not been maintained for decades. Its sanitary units are not functional and the classrooms are inadequate for the use of the students and their teachers. Moreover, the badly damaged surrounding wall around the school has left it exposed to frequent burglaries. In May, a CAP team of community facilitators made initial contact with the residents of the community. A short time later, a full community-wide meeting was held and the residents openly discussed the challenges facing them and identified the rehabilitation of the school as
their immediate priority. The meeting was concluded with the residents electing a nine-member community association to represent them under the CAP process. The school rehabilitation project began in June and included rehabilitation of the school building, its classrooms and sanitary units, the construction of a surrounding fence to protect the facilities, and the rehabilitation of the school’s electrical and water systems. As part of their contribution the community members obtained the required official permits, assisted in identifying laborers and volunteered to guard the school and equipment throughout the implementation period. The project should be completed in September 2004.

- Agriculture teams from USAID’s Community Action Program worked with newly-established cooperatives in Diyala, At Tamim and Ninawa’ Governorates to develop the marketing chains for their products. In Mosul, members of the five existing co-operatives met to discuss joint activities leading to the development of a combined marketing chain. As a result, they will soon be setting up four new cooperatives including a fodder factory, a dairy center, a processed food factory and butchery. The team helped organize a new cooperative in Diyala and provided training to a cooperative that has just recently been formed. Iraqi members of the Agriculture Teams have been receiving training on developing cash flows and income statements and the development of market chains to better assist these cooperatives.
### USAID Iraq Reconstruction Financial Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Implementing Partner</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Regions</th>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>World Vision</td>
<td>Health, Logistics, Non-Food Items, Water/Sanitation</td>
<td>Countrywide</td>
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<td>CARE</td>
<td>Quick-impact projects, Water/Sanitation, Health, Blankets</td>
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<td><strong>USAID/DCHA/FFP</strong></td>
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<td>Organization</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>Countrywide</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>Operations</td>
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<td>Emerson Trust – 81,500 MT</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities – 163,820 MT</td>
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<td>IFES</td>
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<td>Civil Society</td>
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<td>Spa War**</td>
<td>Inter-Ministry Communications</td>
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**TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ IN FY 2003/2004** $4,045,542,992

*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.