IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION WEEKLY UPDATE

December 22, 2004

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

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

USAID’s goals include the emergency repair or rehabilitation of power generation facilities and electrical grids. Teams of engineers from the Ministry of Electricity, USAID, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been working since May of 2003 to restore capacity to Iraq’s power system.

Highlights this week:

- USAID is designing a Power Plant Operations and Maintenance program to provide training, facility assessments, coaching, mentoring, maintenance and plant outage support for Iraq’s power plants. The program will also furnish test equipment, special tools, permanent plant equipment, materials, and parts. The goal of Operations and Maintenance (O&M) training is to establish a tradition of best operational practices and modern management techniques at Iraq’s power plants, water treatment facilities, and other utilities. Ultimately, the implementation of this program would raise the overall operating standards, safety standards, and the reliability of the plant output, thus enabling more megawatt hours to be produced. Training will be provided for 250 staff from the Ministry of Electricity and will be conducted outside of Iraq.

Recently, reviews of six power plant assessment reports were completed and it was anticipated that the remaining reports would be submitted soon. Training was tentatively set to start as early as January 15, 2005. USAID assistance was requested to help the Ministry of Electricity focus the O&M program on Doura Power Plant, where work currently involves restarting Generator Units 5 & 6. A meeting will be held to discuss how to implement the request for targeted O&M training assistance for the Doura plant. A roving team will also be organized to provide assistance and guidance for on-the-job training, mentoring and coaching. The formal review of the plan for out-of-country training will be initiated soon.

- By October, 2003, rehabilitated electric power capacity to produce peak capacity greater than the pre-war level of 4,400 MW. Hit 5,365 MW on August 18, 2004.
- Since achieving record power production in Summer '04, the Ministry of Electricity—with assistance from USAID—has begun the standard Fall maintenance process which will necessarily reduce the amount of power available for consumption. USAID worked with the MOE to conduct last Fall’s maintenance program.
  - Repairing thermal units, replacing turbines, rehabilitating the power distribution network, and installing and restoring generators.
  - USAID has added 535 MW of capacity through maintenance and rehabilitation work, and also repaired a 400 KV transmission line.
  - USAID and the Ministry of Electricity are working with partners to add a total of more than 1,281 MW to the national grid by December 2005 through maintenance, rehabilitation, and new generation projects.
  - USAID completed a project to convert two units that produce 80 MW each to operate on crude/heavy fuel oil instead of diesel which is in short supply.
  - Most recently, USAID has initiated a project to rehabilitate 13 existing substations and construct 24 new substations in Baghdad. These 37 substations will improve the distribution and reliability of electricity for more than two million Baghdad residents.
Water and Sanitation

USAID’s goal is to improve the efficiency and reliability of existing water and wastewater treatment facilities, especially those in the south where water quantity and quality are particularly low. An anticipated 11.8 million Iraqis will benefit from USAID’s $600 million in water and sanitation projects.

Highlights this week:

- Work is moving forward on the expansion and rehabilitation of a water treatment plant in Baghdad. The plant is one of two main water treatment plants that serve 4.7 million Baghdad residents. Work is being conducted in two concurrent phases that will add about 100 MGD of capacity. Recent Phase 1 expansion work included installation of lighting, electrical work, and first floor concrete placement in the chlorine building. Under Phase 2, a Limited Notice of Proceed was authorized to procure raw water screens, clarifiers and sand filters.

- A water system rehabilitation and modeling project is helping to reduce leakage and thereby improve the quantity of potable water delivered in Baghdad. The project scope includes data collection, numerical modeling of Baghdad’s water distribution network, and replacement of damaged sections of the pipe in the distribution network. To date, assessments have been completed and subcontractors have installed 20.5 kilometers of water line. This represents 28% of the water mains under the current scope of work. The water system rehabilitation is 10% finished and is scheduled for completion in December 2005.

- Work is continuing on the rehabilitation of a wastewater treatment plant in An Najaf that will treat sewage for approximately 141,000 of the city’s 563,000 residents. The project is 85 percent complete and a Process and Plant Operation training module is in progress. Two of four biofilter distribution arms have been received and will be installed. Work is continuing on installing penstocks at an inlet pump station and piping and pumps are being installed at Pump Stations 1 and 2. The plant is scheduled for completion in February 2005.

- USAID’s rural water initiative will install approximately 150 wells in remote locations throughout Iraq. Since construction began in October, the project has drilled 25 wells in northeastern Iraq and workers are preparing to complete 15 more in December. Equipment including 52 generators, 600 fiberglass tanks, and 37 reverse osmosis units has been ordered. Design work is scheduled for completion in all 17 governorates by August 2005 and is expected to benefit a total of 750,000 individuals. The project is scheduled for completion in November 2005.

Workers prepare to drill a new well as part of USAID’s rural water initiative.
Economic Governance

USAID supports sustainable economic reforms in Iraq including examining and reforming laws, regulations, and institutions and providing a framework for private sector trade, commerce, and investment. The reforms will strengthen the Central Bank and the Ministries of Finance, Trade, Commerce and Industry—among others.

Highlights this week:

• Tax Administration: IEG II advisors are continuing development of a new automated tax accounting module that will maintain tax accounts of all payers of sales tax. The procurement process is moving forward with a new tax revenue management system; responses to a Request for Information have been received and these responses will be reviewed and vendors selected to participate in a Request for Proposals in early 2005. In partnership with an Iraqi training provider, IEG II staff are developing a course outline for basic network technology training, which is a prerequisite for more advanced training to take place in Amman, Jordan. An Arabic version of 2004 wage withholding instructions from the Iraqi General Commission for Tax has been finalized, providing accurate, international-standard instructions for Iraqi employers.

• Tax Policy: IEG II staff recently drafted and delivered to the Ministry of Finance (MoF) a policy paper on the timing and planning for the introduction of a new sales tax. IEG II also completed and delivered to the MoF a paper on the timing of a mobile phone user tax.

• Customs Reform: IEG II advisors completed a review of Iraq’s automated reconstruction levy system, which charges a 5% tariff on all imports to finance reconstruction, and delivered it to the Deputy Minister of Finance. IEG II is also working with partners to rectify software issues and design a training curriculum for Iraqi customs staff. In a recent meeting with representatives of Iraq’s General Commission for Customs (GCC), IEG II agreed to draft a GCC modernization strategy.

• Staff of USAID’s Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA) program are laying the groundwork for a series of activities in northern Iraq that will work with Iraqis to establish local business centers and business training programs in the area. During the last week, VEGA worked to build awareness of its initiatives in three regional cities: Arbil, Kirkuk, and As Sulaymaniyah. Foundations were set for future alliances and partnerships with: one existing Iraqi business center in each of the three cities, a regional NGO, and other USAID partners. As the program moves forward, VEGA will work with Iraqis to use the existing Iraqi business centers as a base for training activities. Training modules, now in development, will include instruction in business planning, loan packaging, senior banker training, advocacy, furniture, grocery, beekeeping, and veterinarian business activities. Data has been gathered for a business assessment, and analysis and recommendations are now being developed. These recommendations will form the content of future training activities.
USAID’s goals are to work in conjunction with Iraqi ministries, the private sector, and higher education institutions to revitalize agricultural production, stimulate income and employment generation, nurture rural initiatives, and rehabilitate the natural resource base.

Highlights this week:

- The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and USAID’s Agricultural Reconstruction and Development Program for Iraq (ARDI) are working to improve mechanization of Iraqi farming. The Case New Holland Iraq (CNHI) Company, a new joint venture between two Iraqi companies with nationwide coverage, is the first of several local companies expected to participate in the MOA/ARDI Mechanization Program. The program will conduct an inventory of the estimated stock of non-operating farm equipment in the country. CNHI, MOA and ARDI will together conduct the survey of Case New Holland equipment in six regions: Baghdad, Basrah, Arbil, Kirkuk, Mosul and Karbala. These regions are estimated to include 4,000 tractors and 1,000 combines. The Basrah facility is fully operational and the facility in Arbil is six months from completion. Other sites are in planning or under construction.

- The Ministry of Agriculture in Arbil has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with ARDI to carry out a survey of the poultry industry in Arbil and Dohuk Governorates. ARDI is also organizing a similar survey of the poultry industry in As Sulaymaniyah. The survey seeks to assess the performance of the poultry sector and how it has adapted to rapidly changing circumstances in the past couple of years. This information will enable policy makers in Iraq to formulate better policies, and will help farmers and private sector entrepreneurs to make better business decisions. The survey will take place over the next eight weeks, and a report is expected in February 2005, profiling the commercial poultry sector as well as traditional, backyard poultry-raising practiced in villages.

- Four organizations including ARDI are collaborating to help 82 farmers reintroducing beekeeping activities in two villages in As Sulaymaniyah Governorate. Bee-keeping is considered by farmers to be an important source of family income. Under this activity, one farmer in each village will receive intensive training in maintenance and operations of beekeeping. These trained farmers will then serve as trainers for the other participating farmers and future beekeepers in the area. The project will increase the quality and quantity of honey production, raise beekeepers’ income, and create new income-generating opportunities.

Beekeeping supplies reach farmers in As Sulaymaniyah governorate.
USAID’s goals are to increase enrollment, improve the quality of primary and secondary education, ensure classrooms have sufficient supplies, facilitate community involvement, train teachers, implement accelerated learning programs, and establish partnerships between U.S. and Iraqi colleges and universities.

Highlights this week:

- USAID’s Higher Education and Development (HEAD) program is working to help Iraq’s higher education institutions get the support they need to meet international standards and educate Iraq’s young people. In partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, USAID is supporting five university partnerships with U.S.-led consortia, each with a unique focus. Recent developments in three of these partnerships are described below.

  ◊ A third Iraqi research center now has access to an electronic library database, allowing the center to use a vast body of research and learning tools. The database, created by EBSCO Publishing, provides access to over 8,000 academic journals, magazines, and other publications. This initiative is supported by the Al Sharaka University partnership, a consortium of four American and five Iraqi universities, which focuses on institutional academic and leadership strengthening.

  ◊ A partnership between the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook and Iraqi universities is helping modernize the fields of archaeology, Assyriology and environmental health and to reconnect academics in these disciplines to the international community. Currently four Iraqi graduate students are studying at SUNY and others will attend international conferences.

  ◊ Through a partnership between the University of Hawaii’s College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and two northern Iraqi universities, the Hawaii Institute for Educational Partnerships (HIEP) performed 31 searches for 22 researchers from three northern Iraqi universities and delivered 120 articles electronically in November. HIEP will conduct a library information research skills course in late December for the Iraqi scholars and students visiting the University of Hawaii.

  ◊ The same partnership involving the University of Hawaii’s College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is providing training in computer and internet skills to 20 women agricultural staff from an Iraqi University. The participants in the three-week training course are from the Soil and Water Resource department, the Animal Science department, the Forestry department, the Horticulture department, and the university library staff. Women are able to maximize their benefit from this training in an environment that specifically focuses on their needs.

A computer training course for women staff of an Iraqi university.
USAID’s goals in the Democracy and Governance sector include promoting representative citizen participation in governance at the national and subnational level; supporting the administration of transparent and credible electoral processes; strengthening the management skills of national, city and provincial administrations and civic institutions; promoting advocacy and participation of civil society organizations; enhancing leadership skills; and serving as a recruiting tool for future leaders.

Highlights this Week:

- Salah Ad Din’s Local Governance Program (LGP) staff held three democracy education conferences for 225 Iraqis. These conferences focused on human rights and the relationship between Islam and democracy. Local residents heard from guest speakers and community leaders and then engaged in a discussion that raised several points, including:
  - Media programs are needed to educate Iraqi citizens about human rights and democratic principles;
  - The future Iraqi Government should make implementing human rights laws a top priority;
  - Women should have full rights while taking into consideration Islamic values and traditions;
  - Iraq’s democracy should be tailored to suit Islamic traditions and values;
  - Religious leaders should play a major role in disseminating democratic principles; and
  - Citizens are more concerned about security than democracy and elections.

- The Ninawa Governorate Council Secretariat received computers and furniture supplied by LGP. This essential equipment will enable the office to increase community outreach and improve its overall professional reputation. An assessment of computer training needs will be coordinated by a local Iraqi university and LGP.

- Officials and staff from local councils and government departments in Babil Governorate participated in week-long computer training workshops facilitated by LGP. Engineers from the Irrigation, Water, and Public Works departments are learning how to use specialized software such as AutoCAD, which is essential for engineering drawing and design. Non-technical staff members are being trained in the use of computer software in strategic planning and management.

- At the request of the Iraqi Interim National Council (INC), USAID is supporting several administrative training projects for INC members and their staff. A budget training session was held in Baghdad, led by senior trainers including a former UN-appointed Minister of Finance in East Timor. Improving the financial capacity of the Council is important because the INC is responsible for the oversight of the Iraqi Interim Government and the approval of its budget. INC’s 33 support staff will also receive training in accounting, project planning and office management. This staff training will continue after the election for the new Transitional National Assembly (TNA).
USAID support of elections is provided at the request of the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq and in direct coordination with UN activities. Consistent with USAID’s policy with regard to supporting elections, USAID activities in Iraq make a good faith effort to assist all political organizations with equitable levels of assistance, do not seek to determine election outcomes, and support representative multiparty systems.

USAID has awarded a cooperative agreement to the Consortium for Election and Political Processes Strengthening (CEPPS) which includes three US NGOs. This agreement has a $50 million ceiling, of which $23 million has been obligated to date. Within this electoral processes grant USAID seeks to achieve the following:

- Educate voters and promote participation in the electoral process;
- Build the capacity of domestic organizations capable of elections monitoring; and
- Support efforts to monitor and mitigate electoral conflict.

USAID also awarded a $40 million cooperative agreement to an NGO to support the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq’s (IECI) administration of the transitional elections cycle, which includes the January 2005 elections, the October 2005 Constitutional Referendum, and the December 2005 National Assembly Elections.

Highlights this week:

- A local NGO partner recently conducted a three-and-a-half hour information-sharing seminar for 213 students at a major Iraqi university. The event was funded by USAID and was organized with the intent to help youth gain a better understanding of laws and procedures for the January 30 Elections. The seminar outlined the importance of youth participation and mechanisms for ensuring free and fair elections. This activity is one of the many ways in which USAID is partnering with local non-governmental organizations to support Iraqi civil society.

- For more information on the upcoming elections, please visit the website of the Iraqi Election Information Network. EIN is an NGO coordinating elections support across Iraq.

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

Highlights this week:

- A secondary school serving 700 girls in Baghdad Governorate was rehabilitated by a $55,330 CAP project. The school suffered from years of neglect and was looted in 2003. Through this project, the aging facility underwent both renovations and modernizations, including a major overhaul of the school’s plumbing, wiring and fixtures. Finally, the school received a new coat of paint, windows and doors. Before this project local students either were taught in the ruins of the school or attended classes in one of four nearby neighborhoods. Twenty teachers now hold classes at the new facility.

- In Qadisiyah Governorate three school rehabilitation projects were recently approved by Community Action Groups in Qadisiyah Governorate. The projects will benefit a total of 900 families and 1,575 children. The estimated period of time to complete these projects is 70 days. During this period, local communities will provide labor and furnish guards at the school sites. The projects will repair roofs, windows and doors; provide basic furniture; and install potable water and sanitation facilities. Improving the conditions of schools will encourage more local families to send their children to school.

- A newly completed $28,028 project implemented by a USAID partner in Baghdad has generated long-term jobs for more than 50 local residents. The neighborhood’s Community Action Group designed and constructed a community market with 11 vendor stalls to sell vegetables, fruit, meat, fish and other foodstuffs. Local government officials donated the 400 square meter plot of land valued at $43,900. Previously residents traveled for miles to reach the nearest marketplace. This project is particularly important because job creation is a critical part of improving Iraq’s difficult security environment.
Since the cessation of the 2003 conflict, USAID has completed planned work at Umm Qasr Seaport and to restore significant portions of Iraq’s telecommunications network. USAID also helped avert a humanitarian crisis during the conflict by providing assistance to the United Nations’ World Food Program. USAID advisors continue to assist with the management and distribution of food rations for all Iraqi citizens.

Seaport:
- USAID’s $45 million programs to rehabilitate and improve management at the port were completed in June 2004.
- Port reopened to commercial traffic on June 17, 2003; completed first passenger vessel test July 16.
- Up to 50 ships offload at the port every month.
- Completed dredging to open all 21 berths to deep-draft ships; maintenance dredging is ongoing.
- Renovated the grain-receiving facility to process 600 MT of grain an hour.
- Renovated the administration building, passenger terminal, customs hall, and electrical substations.

Telecommunications:
- Audited more than 1,200 km of the fiber optic backbone network and performed emergency repairs, reconnecting 20 cities and 70% of the population.
- Reconstituted Baghdad area phone service by installing switches with 240,000 lines at 12 sites.
- Installed 13 new switches, and fully integrated them with the 14 existing switches.
- Ministry of Communications reactivated more than 215,000 subscriber lines.
- Installed a satellite gateway system at Baghdad’s largest telecom exchange and restored international service.
- Trained ITPC engineers and technicians in the operation and maintenance of the satellite gateway system and the new switches.

Food Security:
- Worked directly with the World Food Program (WFP) and Coalition Forces to re-establish the Public Distribution System (PDS) in less than 30 days, avoiding a humanitarian food crisis and providing food security throughout the country.
- With Iraqi food distributors, Food for Peace, the WFP, and Coalition Forces maintained deliveries from June through December 2003 in all 18 governorates.
- Played a key role in an agreement between the WFP, CPA, and the MoT that provided the WFP with the resources and authority to continue to support the PDS through June 2004.
- In partnership with the United States Embassy in Iraq, providing on-going support to the Public Distribution System Working Group to assist the Ministry of Trade with improving PDS management.
## Financial Summary

### FY 2003-2005*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementing Partner</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Obligation</th>
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## Financial Summary

**FY 2003-2005**

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**University Partners**

- The Research Foundation of the State University of New York/Stony Brook and the Universities of Chicago, Boston, and Oxford
- The Human Rights Institute, DePaul University College of Law, and Italy’s International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences
- University of Hawaii, the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, University of Jordan and the American University in Beirut
- Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, Alcorn State University, Mississippi Valley State University, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Benetech, US-Iraq Business Resources
- University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Cameron University, and Langston University

**Yankee Group**

- Telecoms Planning | Countrywide | $58,150

**VEGA**

- Business Skills Training | Countrywide | $12,089,702

**UNDP**

- Trust Fund Contribution | Countrywide | $5,000,000

**World Bank**

- Trust Fund Contribution | Countrywide | $5,000,000

**EMERGENCY RELIEF**

**USAID/DCHA/OFDA** .......................................................... $114,688,229

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# Financial Summary

**FY 2003-2005***

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<td>SCF/US</td>
<td>Food Security, Health, IDP Assistance, Shelter, Nutrition, Emergency Relief Commodities, Water and Sanitation</td>
<td>Countrywide</td>
<td>$7,957,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>Health, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation</td>
<td>Countrywide</td>
<td>$4,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td>Coordination and Information</td>
<td>Countrywide</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID/Jordan</td>
<td>Support for Emergency Water Activities</td>
<td>Countrywide</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>Food Security, Logistics</td>
<td>Countrywide</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Vision</td>
<td>Health, Logistics, Emergency Relief Commodities, Water/ Sanitation</td>
<td>Countrywide</td>
<td>$6,793,739</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**USAID/DCHA/FFP**

- **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

**USAID/DCHA/OTI**

- **Administrative** Administrative Costs Countrywide $24,829,977
- **IOM** Iraq Transition Initiative Countrywide $6,462,167
- **DAI** Iraq Transition Initiative Countrywide $290,810,533
- **Internews** Media Countrywide $160,359
- **Radio SAWA** Media Countrywide $400,000
- **NDI/IRI** National Governance Countrywide $650,000
- **IFES** National Governance Countrywide $1,042,315
- **ICNL** Civil Society Countrywide $39,238
- **Spa War** Inter-Ministry Communications Countrywide $8,703,001

**TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ FROM 2003-2005**

$4,558,286,962

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* 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.