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IRAQ RAPID ASSISTANCE PROJECT [IRAP]

Quarterly Report (April 01 - June 30, 2010)

Contract No. 267-C-00-07-00505-00

Eleventh Quarterly Report

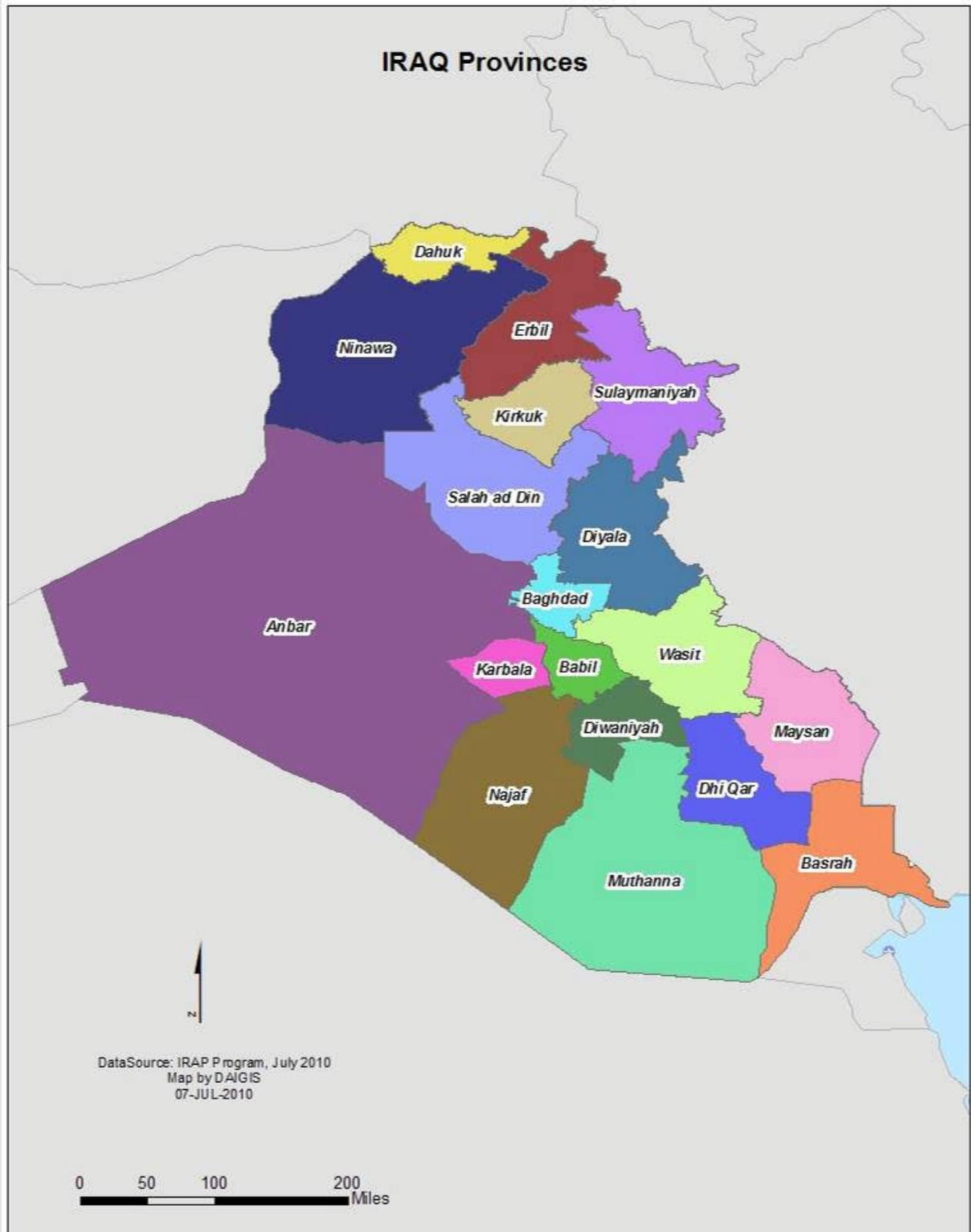
June 2010

DAI/IRAP produced this publication for review by the United States Agency for International Development. The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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Map of Iraq's 18 Provinces



ACRONYMS

AQI	Al Qaeda in Iraq
CERP	Commander's Emergency Response Program
COP	Chief of Party
COTR	Contracting Officer's Technical Representative
CSCM	Civil Society Conflict Mitigation
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAI	Development Alternatives, Incorporated
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DOS	Department of State (United States)
ePRT	Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team
ETEC	(US) Embassy Technical Evaluation Committee
FOB	Forward Operating Base
GEO	Government Election Office
GOI	Government of Iraq
GOR	Grant Officer Responsible
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFES	International Foundation for Electoral Systems
IHEC	Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission
IRAP	Iraq Rapid Assistance Program
IRD	International Relief & Development
IRI	Iraqi Reconstruction Institute
ISF	Iraqi Security Forces
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFI	Microfinance Institution
MNF-I	Multi-National Force-Iraq
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OPA	Office of Provincial Affairs
OTI	Office of Transitional Initiatives
PIC	Provincial Iraqi Control
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan (aka Performance Management Plan)
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
PSA	Public Service Announcement
QRF	Quick Response Fund
REO	Regional Embassy Office
RoL	Rule of Law
RRT	Regional Reconstruction Team
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
SOFA	Status of Forces Agreement
SPDO	Senior Program Development Officer
TAMIS	Technical Assistance Management Information System
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAW	Violence against Women

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

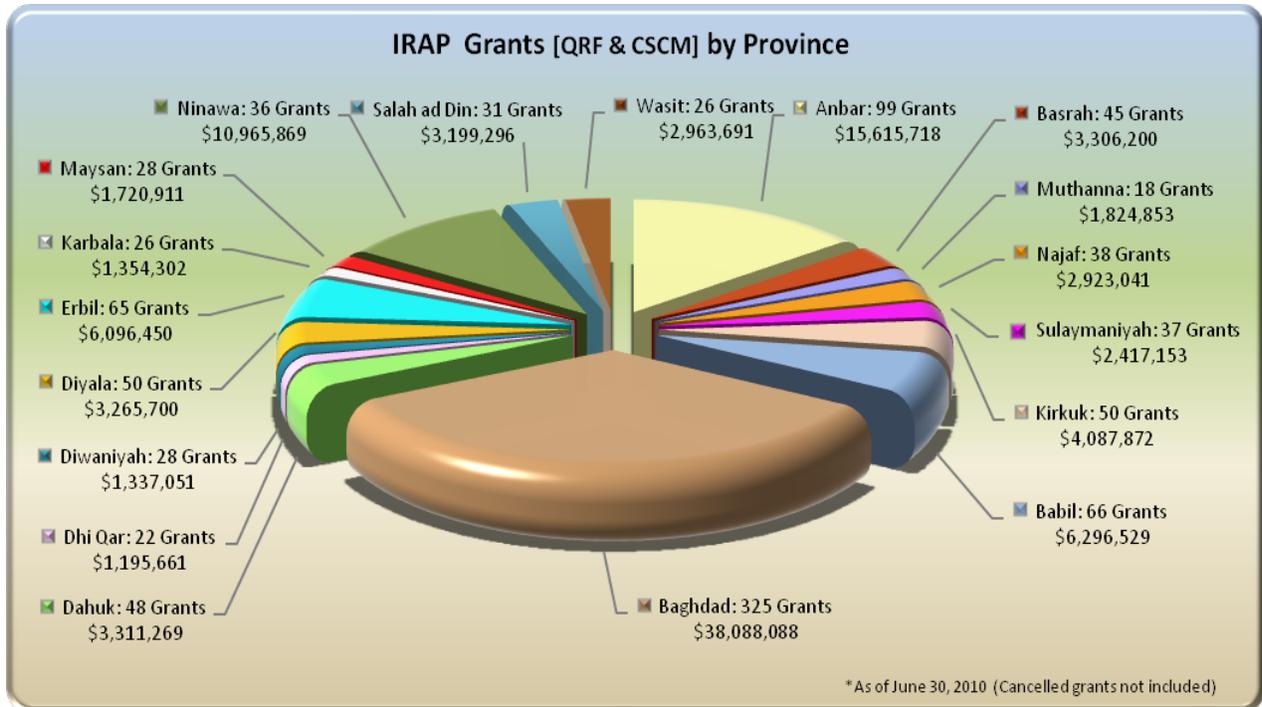
At the conclusion of this Iraq Rapid Assistance Program [IRAP] reporting period, nearly \$110 million in QRF [Quick Response Funds] and CSCM [Civil Society Conflict Mitigation] grants have been successfully approved. To date, IRAP has issued 1,038 grants. In total, 830 have successfully completed activities and are closed. During this reporting period, approval was received for 12 QRF grants totaling approximately \$3.1 million, and seven CSCM grants valued at more than \$814,000.

IRAP priorities this quarter focused on grant close-out, particularly, preparation of all required documentation including monitoring and evaluation records. SPDOs worked to ensure the successful use of remaining, de-obligated funds to target critical needs supporting USAID's transition strategy for Iraq.

IRAP continues to collaborate with PRT/ePRTs as drawdown continues in line with USG reductions and the strategic recalibration toward a mission more focused on a diplomatic function. IRAP initiatives continually aim to further USAID's mission of developing Iraqi national capacities. Two themes this quarter highlight IRAP's commitment to assisting Iraqis maintain the momentum of economic and social progress toward long-term, durable stability and prosperity for all citizens.

- In an effort to effectively and successfully utilize remaining funds, IRAP supported 25 **youth summer day camps** in four Iraq provinces where tensions frequently remain high. The two-month program has been received well and has demonstrated high levels of success. Each camp's diverse student body has been provided the opportunity to participate in numerous activities such as fine arts projects including music and drama as well as language and poetry. Students have also been provided an opportunity to interact with a variety of guest speakers.
- During late 2009 and early 2010, a series of spectacular bomb attacks in Baghdad killed hundreds and left Iraqi government ministries, hotels, schools and other buildings destroyed or badly damaged. IRAP responded to the US Embassy's urgent request for **emergency assistance grants** to assist the recovery of Government of Iraq operations with nine projects valued at approximately \$1.5 million. While some projects were started in the immediate aftermath of the first wave of bombings in 2009, during this quarter, four IRAP grants for emergency assistance were approved for implementation. All focus on re-establishing critical functionality of government offices as well as educational and charitable institutions to enable resumption of operations.

IRAP's working environment this reporting period included occasional travel limitations and instances of threats directed at projects. However, most areas remained relatively stable, allowing grant implementation and evaluation efforts to continue throughout the reporting period. To date, 80% of the total 1,038 grants have been closed, with 208 QRF and CSCM grants to be closed during the final quarter.



II. WORKING ENVIRONMENT

A. IRAP Outreach and Countrywide Working Environment

A total of 1,038 grants have been implemented during IRAP’s period of performance. At the conclusion of the 11th reporting quarter, 92 active projects are finalizing activities and 116 completed projects are in the grant close-out process. All IRAP staff are focused on supporting the successful completion and close-out of IRAP’s remaining projects. At the end of the previous quarter the US Department of State and USAID issued a ‘last call’ for IRAP project proposals. In response, SPDOs worked with PRT/ePRTs to utilize remaining and de-obligated grant funds, resulting in USAID approval for 19 new IRAP CSCM and QRF grants this quarter. IRAP-PRT/ePRT collaboration on final project development necessitated careful evaluation of multiple proposals to identify activities with the best probability of completing within IRAP’s remaining period of implementation.

These ‘last call’ projects assist improvements in water resource management, civil society, agriculture, youth and education, and provided emergency support for a renowned church/community center and GOI ministries damaged or destroyed by the spate bombings in central Baghdad.

Throughout the program, the development of the IRAP-PRT/ePRT relationship has been impacted by such factors as PRT personnel rotations and by the successes and challenges encountered during the implementation of hundreds of IRAP grant activities.

PRTs have utilized IRAP assistance to undertake activities in support of provincial work plans and objectives. In contrast to other USAID implementing partners with more narrowly defined program objectives, IRAP's flexibility has allowed PRT/e-PRTs to undertake a wide variety of activities to meet their community development objectives. There is no other USAID Iraq activity which allows PRT/ePRTs to implement programs either developed by their teams or received by them from community sources.

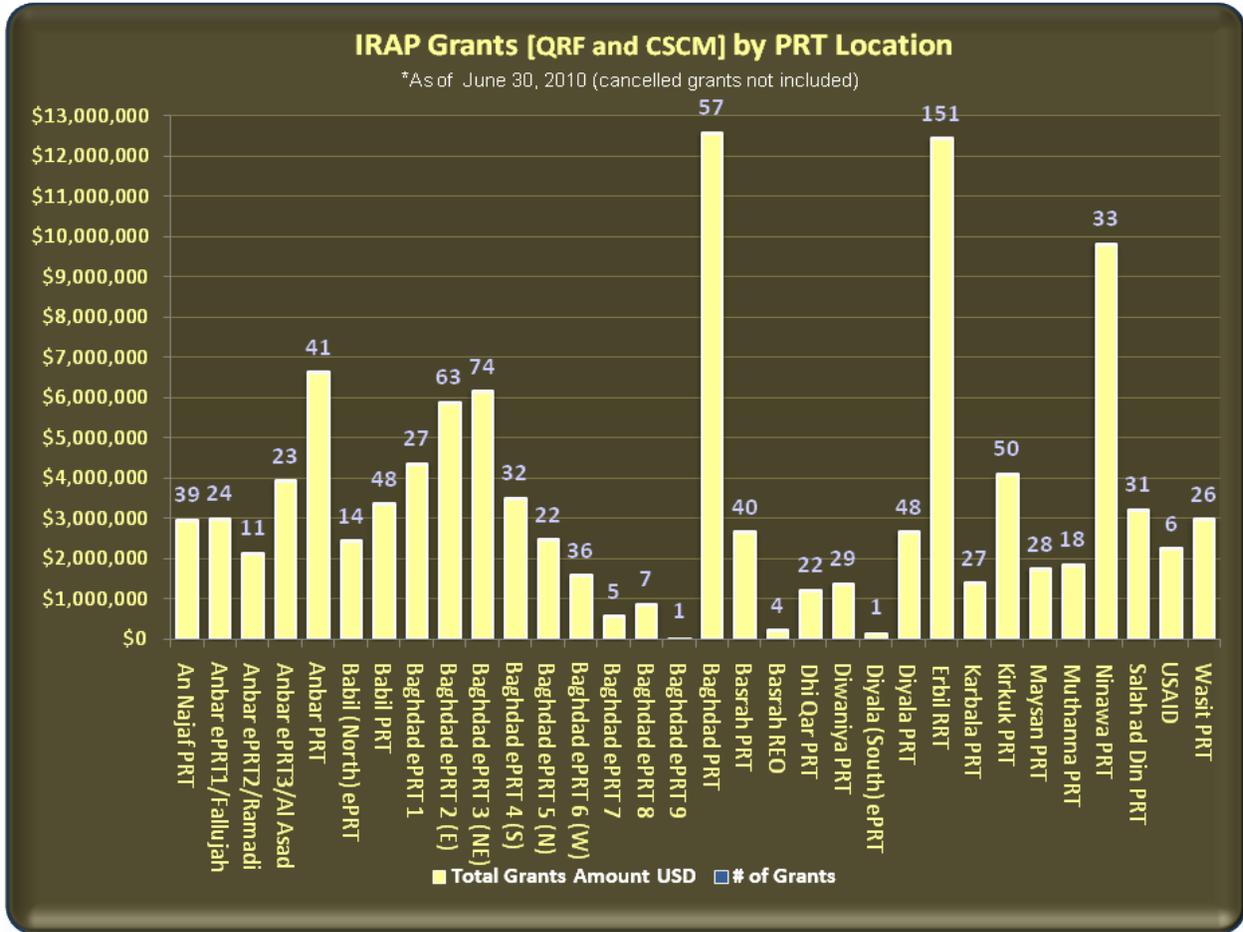
As this quarter concludes and IRAP's period of performance ends, the solid working relationships SPDOs maintain with the PRT/ePRTs has been highlighted by questions from several PRTs regarding alternative funding mechanisms for possible future programs. PRT/ePRTs have expressed a desire to continue current activities as well as to launch follow on projects to complement previous and current IRAP grants. Some SPDOs have consulted at length with PRTs to assess which NGO grantees might be most suitable for future CERP or micro-QRF activities.

IRAP 11th Quarter PRT/ePRT Outreach	
Region	Days
Central	31
North Central	2
East Central	8
South Central	2
North	10
South	1
West	6
Total	60

Instances of threats and intimidation directed at projects, as well as threat levels limiting area access have disrupted implementation in some areas. One project in the rural northern area of Baghdad had to be relocated after undergoing a series of intimidating visits from a local militia. IRAP had to remove and store equipment for a project in south Baghdad following direct threats stemming from resentment that women and not men had benefited from grant funding assistance. Criminal activity in Basrah appears to have increased but has not impacted IRAP to any significant extent. In the north, tensions

remain within Kirkuk and Ninawa provinces along the disputed internal boundaries [DIB], with DIB checkpoints remaining targets for attack. In south central region's Karbala province, which contains one of the main military convoy routes – frequently a target of attacks, the PRT has limited all movements to mission critical. Although IRAP local staff are able to travel within the province, the PRT's ability to conduct site visits has been reduced.

Overall, grant implementation has not been significantly impacted by any marked deterioration in security conditions. SPDOs, Grant Managers and IRAP's local partner organization have continued this reporting quarter's intensified schedule of monitoring and evaluation efforts to better enable successful project completion and grant close-out.



B. Iraqi Reconstruction Institute [IRI] - Monitoring & Evaluation Services

To augment the monitoring and evaluation efforts of IRAP personnel and IRAP’s local partner organizations, DAI/IRAP contracted IRI - an independent monitoring and evaluation [M&E] consultancy service. In February, IRAP received USAID approval to contract IRI to perform M&E assessments for current and completed IRAP QRF and CSCM projects.

In this capacity, IRI undertook site visits to observe active grants and interview project staff and grant beneficiaries, examine implementation issues and finally, assess the impact of grant activities and evaluate the overall project performance of IRAP grantees. Monitoring forms were developed by SPDOs and provided to IRI, before M&E visits were undertaken. The forms encompassed key objectives, issues and points of performance to be assessed. IRI conducted a total of seven monitoring and evaluation tasks.

IRAP Grant Highlight

While the legal landscape for women in Iraq has improved in recent years, much of the female population is still unaware or unsure of their rights under Iraqi law and international treaties ratified by Iraq. A nine month IRAP funded program in Diyala province reached out to more than 2,000 rural and urban women, through dozens of



workshops on women’s rights and legal protections, as well as enabling legal and social counseling for widows and battered women. The *Women’s Center in Muqdadia* employs legal experts and social workers who established the center as a platform for support throughout the province in dealing with issues such as domestic abuse and custody disputes. The center encourages women to voice their views at home and exercise their constitutional rights.

Currently, approximately 50 cases involve young widows who were forced to marry al Qaeda fighters as children and have since been either abandoned or are unable to prove that their husbands are deceased. Additionally, the US Embassy is working with an international organization specializing in these types of women’s rights cases to help address the situation. The protection and development of women’s rights is a key to Iraq’s developing stability and long term prospects of prosperity.

SPDOs reported IRI’s assessments to be helpful in confirming details of scheduled activities, condition of procured equipment, assessing impact and providing in-depth feedback regarding grantee performance.

The comprehensive M&E reports were reviewed by the SPDO, with any additional information required being gathered and provided before the reports were finalized. Some of the additional questions required supplementary visits by IRI to the grantee. These supplementary visits were all conducted quickly and efficiently. The assessments undertaken by IRI could be used in determining the feasibility of awarding follow-on projects to existing or previous grantees.

IRAP Grant Highlight

An IRAP funded grant established Iraq’s first database for children with congenital heart disease, successfully linking emergency centers in three northern governorates and addressing critical medical service deficiencies in Iraq’s Kurdistan region. Each year an estimated 3,000 children in the KRG are born with congenital cardiac anomalies. Decades of neglect and mismanagement left the region without adequate medical facilities or professional expertise to enable diagnosis of pediatric cardiac anomalies.

IRAP’s six month project established clinics in the three KRG governorates of Erbil, Dahuk and Sulaymaniya and facilitated assistance for 100 children suffering from congenital heart disease. Hundreds of nurses, hospital staff and local pediatricians were instructed in data identification, compilation and data entry during the project’s training component. In addition to the direct advantages afforded to Kurdistan’s children, the database will assist diagnoses, planning and treatment for children and healthcare professionals throughout Iraq.



C. Integrated IRAP Personnel Roles - Assisting Grant Close-Out

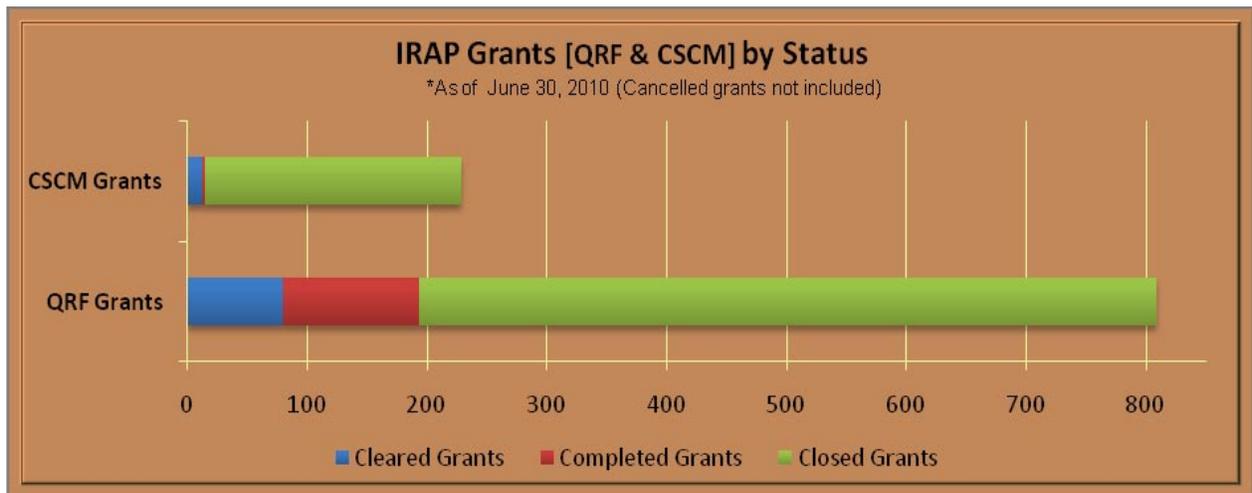
Throughout the three years of IRAP’s period of performance, each staff member has become familiar with every stage in the grant life-cycle. As the July 31 cutoff date for implementation draws closer, all personnel have taken an active role in the successfully completion of all grant close-outs. IRAP Project Development Officers are assisting Grant Managers with close-out administration by liaising with grantees to ensure all documentation is furnished, allowing for grant close-out to be completed.

Sr. Grant Managers have been working closely with SPDOs to process monitoring and evaluation forms and coordinating with Grant Managers and IRAP’s local partner organizations to verify grant close-out checklists. This integrated approach has enabled a large number of grants to be finalized and closed during the period along with a continued focus on implementation of remaining projects.

D. The Progress of Remaining IRAP Grant Close-Out

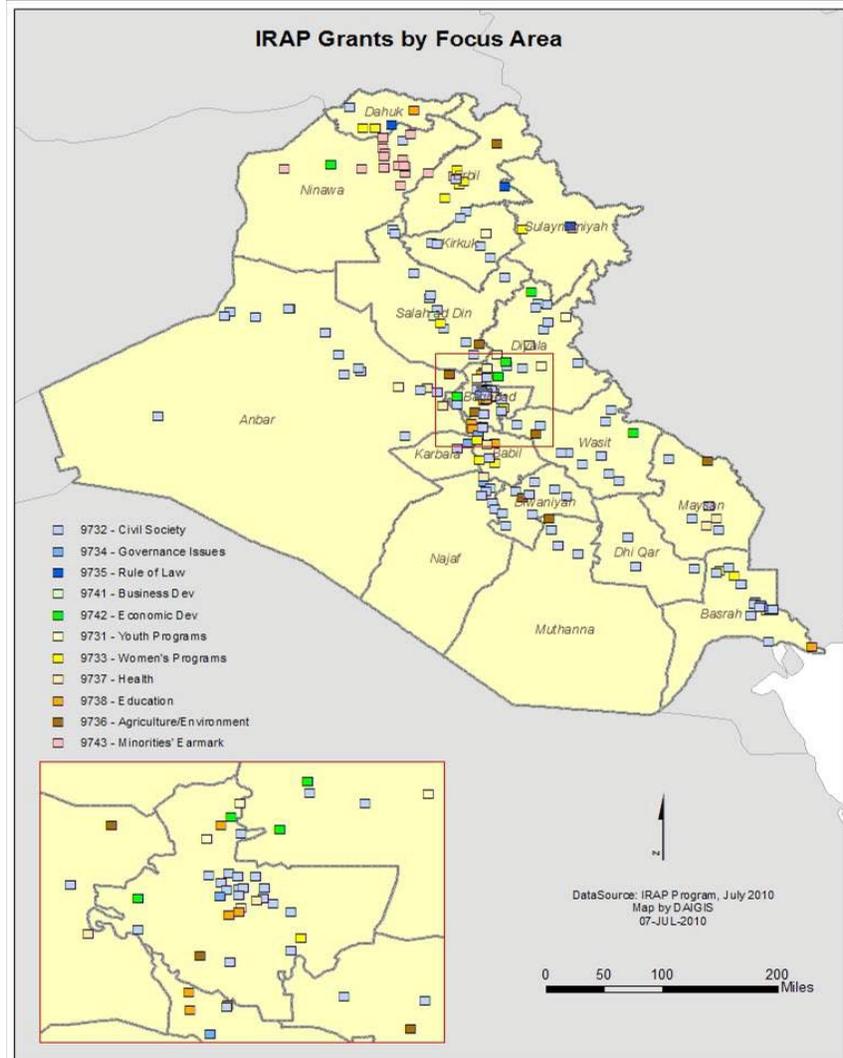
As mentioned, grant close-out has been a major focus of IRAP staff’s time during the reporting period, with the team managing to close a total of 378 grants during the period.

In May, IRAP senior staff conducted two, one-day close-out planning sessions for all local staff. The IRAP COP, DCOP and the Home Office Technical Lead convened the first planning session for Central Iraq regions in IRAP’s Baghdad Office.



The second session was conducted in the Erbil Office for North, North Central and South staff. Discussions focused on existing and potential issues foreseen for individual grants, the overall status of close-out progress, the need for all personnel to actively participate in the close-out process and the critical importance of alerting decision makers immediately of any issues that arise.

Despite being discussed during grant kickoff meetings, implementation and close-out procedures continued to be an area of confusion on the part of the grantee during this reporting period. Several meetings were held reiterating and clarifying program guidelines for a number of grantees. Particular emphasis was placed on the grantee’s responsibility for providing final reports which would permit IRAP to make final payments. With 92 active projects as of the end of the reporting period, IRAP anticipates grant close-out to be the focus of the remaining three months of the contract, ending 30 September.



III. MAJOR THEMES

Since September 2007, IRAP, in coordination with Provincial Reconstruction Teams, has prioritized all 11 of the Quick Response Fund’s focus areas. Nationwide, by the end of IRAP’s eleventh report quarter, a total of 1,038 QRF and CSCM grants have been implemented.

A total of 558 grants developing **Iraqi civil society** are valued at \$26,865,708 in funding. **Youth Programs** have been assisted by 31 grants for \$4,102,850. **Minority Earmark** projects total 26 grants valued at \$9,679,235. **Women’s Programs** have benefited from 73 grants valued at \$6,965,001. **Governance Issues** have received \$13,905,670 for 106 grants. A total of 39 projects to improve Iraq’s **Agriculture/Environment** are valued at \$8,475,797 in funding assistance. **Business Development** has been promoted with \$4,935,463 for 29 grants. **Economic Development** has been supported with 48 grants valued at \$10,775,757. Iraq’s community and professional **Health** sectors have been supported with \$7,961,842 for 44 grants. IRAP has supported Iraqi **Education** improvements with 49 grants valued at \$8,285,406. Support for the **Rule of Law** has included 35 grants totaling \$8,016,922.

IRAP Grant Highlight

IRAP literacy programs such as the *Taji Adult Literacy and Life Skills Program* have transformed the lives of individuals in significant and personal ways. The program provided instruction to a third-grade level for thousands of Baghdad adults in a rural qada (district). Basic reading, writing and arithmetic classes were conducted over a six-month period. IRAP support had a simple yet vital impact on many lives. Anecdotes include a school guard whose professional dignity was enhanced, as learning to read enabled him to check information on campus visitors' ID's. The literacy classes also assisted a 30-year-old widow to secure a job and become self-reliant in supporting her two children. On a localized scale, poor literacy rates affect resident's ability to access social benefits, banking and financial services. Nationally, illiteracy limits Iraq's ability to reduce criminal activity and limits effective community participation in nearly all sectors of the socio-economic framework. In total, approximately 2,500 qada residents received basic reading, writing and arithmetic education and training in life skills. It is hoped that the secondary benefits of this new found knowledge will continue throughout the community.



A. IRAP Assistance for Youth and Education - the Summer Day Camp Program

Iraq's education system was once considered one of the most advanced in the Middle East region, with nearly 100% primary school enrollment and particularly high literacy rates among women. Thirty years of Ba'ath party dictatorship distorted Iraq's enviable academic standing to a system that served as a party forum for state propaganda and an Education Ministry that doubled as a war chest to fund Saddam Hussein's military aggression. As early as the 1970's many colleges and institutions began barring entry to student teacher applicants who did not subscribe to the Ba'athist ideology.



Despite this Anbar School's Dilapidated Condition IRAP Summer Day Camp Children Still Manage to Enjoy Ping Pong

School curricula were politicized as regime philosophies pervaded every sector of commerce and society. Textbooks, curricula and school activities were all skewed to promote one party rule and the regime's militant brand of nationalism. Around the mid 1980's the state began to siphon off large portions of the education budget to finance the protracted Iran-Iraq war. In the worsening economic crisis, teacher salaries were slashed, school facilities fell into disrepair and the supply of textbooks and other school staples was woefully inadequate.

In the prevailing climate of hardship, self-sufficiency for teaching staff too often meant payment in exchange for better exam results or under the pretext of 'contributions' toward school maintenance. As Iraq entered the 1990's, the nation's education system was effectively marginalized as most state spending was prioritized to maintain the regime's burgeoning security sector. In the wake of the Iran-Iraq war and the aftermath of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, a raft of trade sanctions plunged Iraq into deeper economic crisis.

The UNHCR reports that by 2003, female adult literacy had dropped to 45% and that 40-50% of primary school children had dropped out of school. Iraq's education system was debilitated to the point of near collapse. Persistent, large scale staff absenteeism was unchecked, primary and secondary school attendance - especially of girls - was dwindling; overt favoritism fuelled by the phenomenon of 'private tutoring fees' in state schools was commonplace; curricula were years outdated; literacy rates were steadily declining; and approximately 70% of schools lacked running water or latrines.



Children at an Anbar Primary School are Thrilled to Welcome IRAP's Summer Day Camp Project

In support of USAID's transition strategy for Iraq, IRAP QRF and CSCM funding has assisted the QRF focus areas of Education, with 49 projects totaling \$8,285,406, and Youth Programs, with



Schoolboys Listen to an IRAP Summer Day Camp Guest Speaker At a Baghdad school in Rusafa District

31 grants valued at \$4,102,850. While these totals represent only those projects supporting a single focus area, many more grants have facilitated other aspects of youth support such as educational improvement opportunities.

In more recent years, Iraqi society has suffered through insurgency and sectarian conflict, political turmoil and more economic hardship.

Against this backdrop, the prioritization of education has lagged behind concerns of security, social benefits, municipal service delivery and access to adequate health services. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the International Organization for Migration estimate that 40% of Iraq’s population is comprised of children less than 15 years of age, and that this age group is most affected by uncertain security environments and socio-economic instability. Despite significant advances, current schooling conditions are characterized by such persistent issues as insufficient school buildings, teaching staff and learning materials. As well as curbing attendance rates, the countrywide deficit of school facilities has compelled some areas to run two or three shifts of classes daily to accommodate local community students.



Children at a Kirkuk Province IRAP Summer Day Camp Stage a Drama & Dance Routine

Despite these often overwhelming issues, improvements in nationwide stabilization are enabling more students to enroll and attend school regularly. The scale of challenge in rebuilding an entire educational structure is daunting. Thousands of teachers must be trained and retrained; the reconstructed relationship between the state and the national education system must continue to strengthen; thousands more schools are needed - each with textbooks and other learning resources; Iraq’s education budget requires careful management to ensure efficient planning and expenditure. Central to the success of this vast overhaul, children must be once again reassured that school is a safe place where independent thought is as valued as individualism, where gender, cultural and ethnic differences are irrelevant, and where hard work and imagination will prove the key to personal achievement.



IRAP Day Camp Children in Baghdad’s Taji District are Encouraged To Express Themselves by Drawing Things as They See Them

The USG and numerous international organizations are working to address some of the education system’s most urgent needs including advisory services for the Ministry of Education, school construction and funding for education programs.

As this school year ended, IRAP and USAID coordinated to develop a targeted day camp program for students in four provinces. The day camps seek to provide a safe and encouraging environment in which students are able to learn in a group while interacting with positive role models. Enabled by IRAP Civil Society Conflict Mitigation [CSCM] funds, the summer youth day camps activity sites are located in provinces that experience frequent tensions - Kirkuk, Diyala, Anbar, and Baghdad.

The camps are modeled on a program of successful IRAP/QRF initiatives implemented in north Baghdad during the summer of 2009. Valued at more than \$768,000, the program supports a total of 25 schools, with five schools under each project. Two smaller camps are supported in Baghdad while students attend one large camp within each of the provinces of Anbar, Diyala, and Kirkuk. In Baghdad, students attend classes for three hours daily, four days per week. In Anbar, Diyala, and Kirkuk, camps run for five hours each day, five days a week. Time for snacks and lunch are part of each day's schedule.

Students attend classes in structured and creative environments where they are able to express themselves freely and imaginatively while developing leadership and communication skills. Empowering children with the confidence and capacity to deal resourcefully with life's challenges has the potential to impact families, groups of friends and ultimately, communities. The program aims to provide guidance toward student's development as responsible, caring individuals who will take an active interest in the progress of their work and social communities and more broadly, contribute to a robust civil society. All of the projects have a strong cultural theme emphasizing drama/theater, creative writing and poetry.



A Diyala Province IRAP Summer Day Camp Group Practice their Drama Scene before Presenting to the Class

Each project features a series of guest speakers who conduct talks on topics as diverse as the importance of law and order, theatre, literature, popular music, film production, acceptance of cultural diversity, poetry and even fishing and agriculture. Textbooks and school supplies are provided to each student. Learning includes English, Arabic and Kurdish language, fine art drawing, health and first aid, glass painting, cooking and acting lessons.

A range of sports activities - table tennis, volleyball for girls, soccer for boys and other noncompetitive team building exercises - are supported In Kirkuk, Anbar, and Diyala. The projects will award backpacks and school supplies to students who maintain a 90% attendance rate. Grantees selected students aged 11 - 16 from varied backgrounds in order to establish

diverse camp groups. In Anbar, the grantee focused on recruiting poor and underrepresented groups. In Diyala, the student selection process was extensive; the grantee requested lists of students from approximately 50 area schools that met one of six criteria and asked for a small note about each student.

The criteria included students who are orphaned, members of IDP families, gifted, destitute, have disabilities/special needs, or excel at academics. The project staff selected 700 students



Lunchtime for an IRAP Diyala Summer Day Camp Acting Troupe

from across the province. The day camp program’s student diversity is a key factor in achieving each grant’s objective of fostering inclusiveness and understanding and encouraging teamwork. Activities present each student with ample occasions to interact with individuals whom they might not otherwise have had the opportunity to meet.

Additionally, grantees coordinated with the Ministry of Education and some local universities in order to identify suitable school locations. The camps were slated to start on June 1; however, this date conflicted with school final exams. Some

camps launched a day later on June 2, or opted to relocate to alternate schools. In Anbar, the exam period forced some camps to move to relatively remote rural schools. Although this was a last minute change, the move actually served the formation of a student body that might not have been originally targeted for inclusion, which has proven to be a positive outcome.

Day Camp Challenges

Notwithstanding a lively and engaging daily routine, the camps do endure day-to-day difficulties. Nearly all of the schools lack a consistent electricity supply. Children and supervisors have to endure Iraq’s summer heat which on days can average in excess of 110 degrees, making some activities hard work and impacting attendance rates. Some camps have benefited from generators and air coolers but this has



The Student Group at IRAP’s Summer Day Camp In Diyala Province Learn About Teamwork

not been the case across the board. Security also remains a concern. Early in the Baghdad program a local militia group appeared at one of the schools. The grantee and administrators quickly relocated camp activities to another school. In Diyala, a spate of recent attacks in the proximity of one camp location concerned both the grantee and parents. Many parents were unwilling to risk their children’s attendance, so again the grantee was compelled to relocate the camp at an alternate school.

Results

The two-month long camps showed success early in the program. In part, this accomplishment is due to the continued refinement and development of each project wherein the close cooperation of all parties - PRTs, USAID Representatives, and the grantees - adjusted the project to better suit local community conditions. For example, the Kirkuk guest speaker series emphasizes reconciliation and conflict mitigation while the grantee NGO for one of the Baghdad camps, whose specializes in fine art, has enlisted artists and poets to talk and interact with the children.



Children Open Their Supply Packs to begin Creative Writing At an IRAP Summer Day Camp in Baghdad

The grantees’ sincere desire and initiative are ensuring that camps provide a supportive environment in which the students can learn. Some grantees have undertaken additional efforts to broaden the campers’ experience. In Anbar, the grantee introduced a popular, nationally renowned weight lifter to speak with the students. In Diyala,

the grantee is sponsoring school beautification projects, pedestrian safety lessons, glass etching, and photography. Additionally, the grantee brings in several guest speakers per week to discuss topics ranging from health and small science projects to history and sports. One speaker, a doctor who grew up as an orphan, gave hope and served as an example to students in overcoming life’s challenges through hard work and determination.



Students Stage Carefully Prepared Theatre Scenes At an IRAP Summer Day Camp in Kirkuk Province

Through lessons learned and experiences from the combined efforts of IRAP/CSCM funding, PRTs and dynamic, engaged grantees, students are learning new, creative outlets for their energies and skills.

IRAP Grant Highlight



The William Shakespeare classic “Macbeth” was adapted and performed for Iraqi audiences over six days at the National Theater in Baghdad. Eight weeks of preparations and rehearsals ensured the production’s success. Developed through IRAP-Baghdad PRT collaboration, the grant aimed to project a positive political message supporting democracy and discrediting authoritarian government. The grant also supported the rejuvenation of Iraqi theater, and insofar as the production received rave reviews from local media, was successful. Media reviews described the play’s message as a call to “refuse all forms of dictatorship.” The project helped to build the capacity of Baghdad’s Stage Actor’s Association.

More than 40 actors were employed during the 10 week project. Critically, this grant succeeded in communicating a pro-democratic message. It is hoped that the experience of Macbeth strengthened public support for developing democratic institutions and illustrated the perils of one-party rule.

B. IRAP Emergency Assistance Program for Government of Iraq Ministries

In late 2009 and early 2010, central Baghdad suffered a series of spectacular mass casualty bombings that killed hundreds and injured thousands more. Several GOI ministries as well as a hospital, hotels, schools and other buildings were either completely destroyed or damaged to such an extent that continued operations were impossible.

The Government of Iraq officially requested the assistance of the US Embassy in restoring several damaged ministry buildings and offices and re-establishing basic functionality as soon as possible. IRAP responded immediately to Baghdad PRT’s urgent request to draft proposals seeking to assist restoration of ministry, governorate, judicial and provincial council offices as well as a technical college and a renowned Baghdad hospital. IRAP funding assistance supported a total of nine Emergency Assistance projects valued at approximately \$1.5 million.



***IRAP Support for the Baghdad Medical Technical College
Enables Students to Continue Studies***

The nine-project program assisted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Fine Arts, St. George’s Hospital and the Electronic Technical College. The IRAP SPDO covering Baghdad worked with IRAP’s Baghdad Office Procurement Specialist and local partner organization in collaboration with the Baghdad PRT, US Embassy personnel and GOI officials to ensure equipment lists met mission critical needs.

Several other agencies and organizations rallied to lend support in repairing extensive blast damage and to expedite restoration of core functionality. To ensure cohesive effort and non-duplication of assistance, IRAP program preparations included coordination with the QRF team and other US agencies with a part in the recovery efforts, as well the US Army. The IRAP SPDO followed a schedule of key organizational meetings that prioritized needs and identified equipment most urgently required to stabilize and establish a base line of functionality. As with every IRAP project, preparation and implementation of the this program was most effective where grantee guidance and input was proactive and consistent at each step in the way forward with US Embassy staff, Baghdad PRT and IRAP personnel.



IRAP Funding Assists the GOI Ministry of Finance to Resume Operations

During this reporting period IRAP supplied essential office equipment related furniture to the ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Fine Arts with an approximate value of \$362,655. Implementation of the Ministry of Fine Arts grant is complete while IRAP assistance for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs project is expected to be completed soon.

Location	Date of Attack	Grant Amount USD
Ministry of Justice	Oct 25, 2009	\$ 199,950
Ministry of Finance	Aug 19 & Dec 8, 2009	\$ 89,600
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Aug 19, 2009	\$ 195,800
Baghdad Governorate	Oct 25, 2009	\$ 199,500
Baghdad Provincial Council	Oct 25, 2009	\$ 199,750
Higher Judicial Council	Oct 25, 2009	\$ 199,550
Medical (Electrical) Technical College	Dec 8, 2009	\$ 199,200
Ministry of Fine Arts	Dec 8, 2009	\$ 166,855
St. George’s Hospital	Oct 8, 2009 & Apr 3, 2010	\$ 54,600
Total		\$ 1,504,805

The December ‘09 blast caused structural damage and destroyed most of the office and laboratory equipment at Baghdad’s Medical Technical College, severely limiting the institution’s capacity to resume classes.

IRAP moved rapidly to assist with provision of office equipment and furniture. The Medical (Electrical) Technical College grant also undertook refurbishing the school's lab with a range of technical electronic training items as well as several computer stations. Quick Coordination between IRAP's Procurement Specialist Grant Manager and IRAP's local partner organization ensured all equipment was available on local markets and could be procured nearly immediately.

Baghdad's St. George's Church runs a busy clinic and charitable foundation that provides essential medical, food and basic material relief services free of charge for hundreds of poverty stricken individuals each week, including displaced minorities. The church complex is located in close proximity of two attacks that occurred in October '09 and April '10, and while not the intended target, the buildings sustained considerable structural damage.

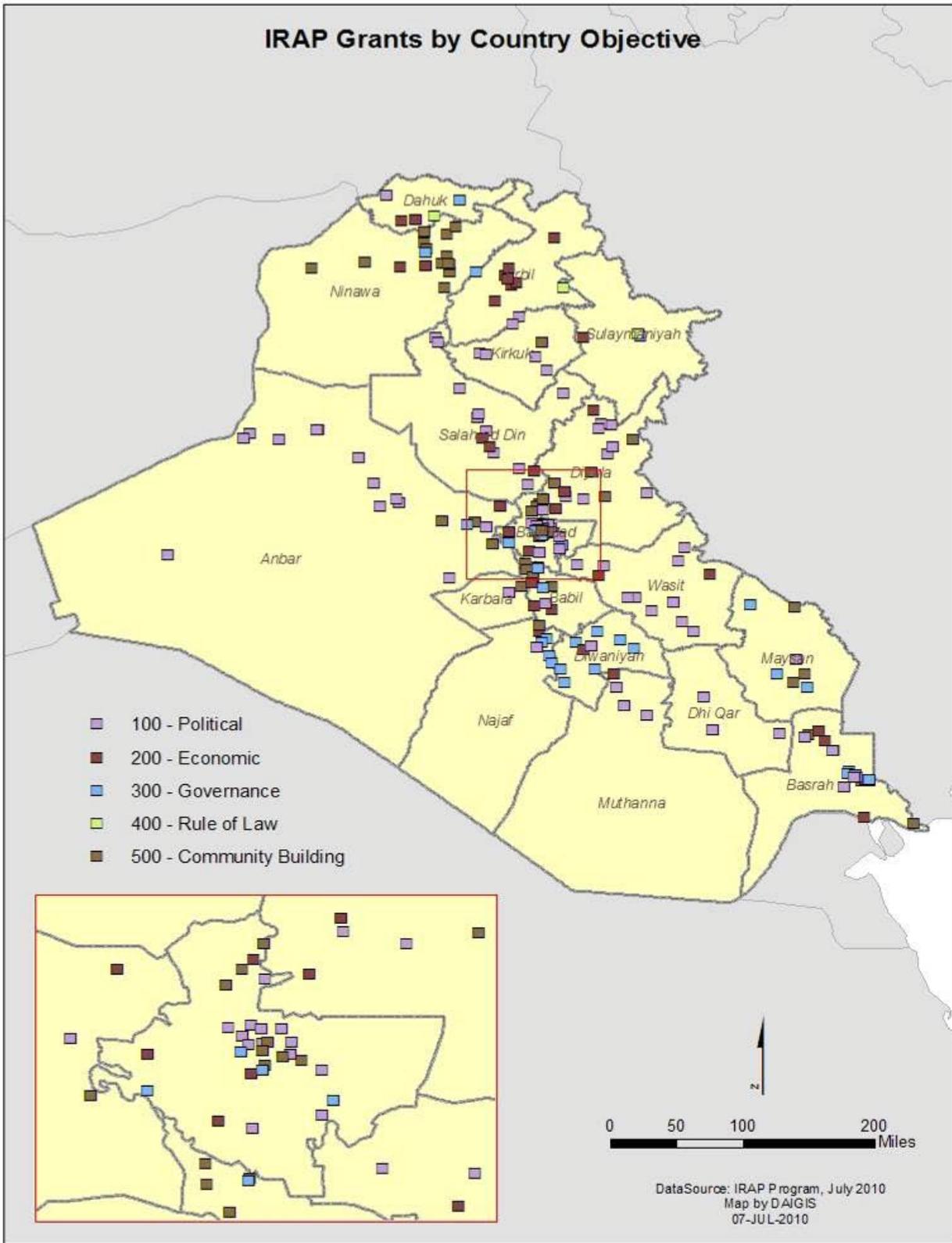


The blasts disrupted clinic operations that under normal circumstances have the capacity to provide medical and dental treatment for more than 100 patients per day. IRAP support valued at nearly \$55,000 is assisting refurbishment of health facilities and other administrative offices.

The swift response from IRAP, USAID, Baghdad PRT and all other recovery effort partners assisting the Emergency Assistance Program demonstrated the US Government's continued commitment to Baghdad's restoration as the administrative capital of Iraq. Once again IRAP's SPDO team, extensive network of local staff and local partner organization illustrated that flexible Quick Response Funding assistance was able to provide accelerated support to meet urgent needs.

Baghdad's Renowned St George's Church Receives IRAP Assistance with Structural Refurbishment and ACs

No less importantly, the IRAP-USAID emergency support program is an expression of solidarity with Baghdad's residents as they endeavor to re-establish peaceful and orderly conditions throughout the city.





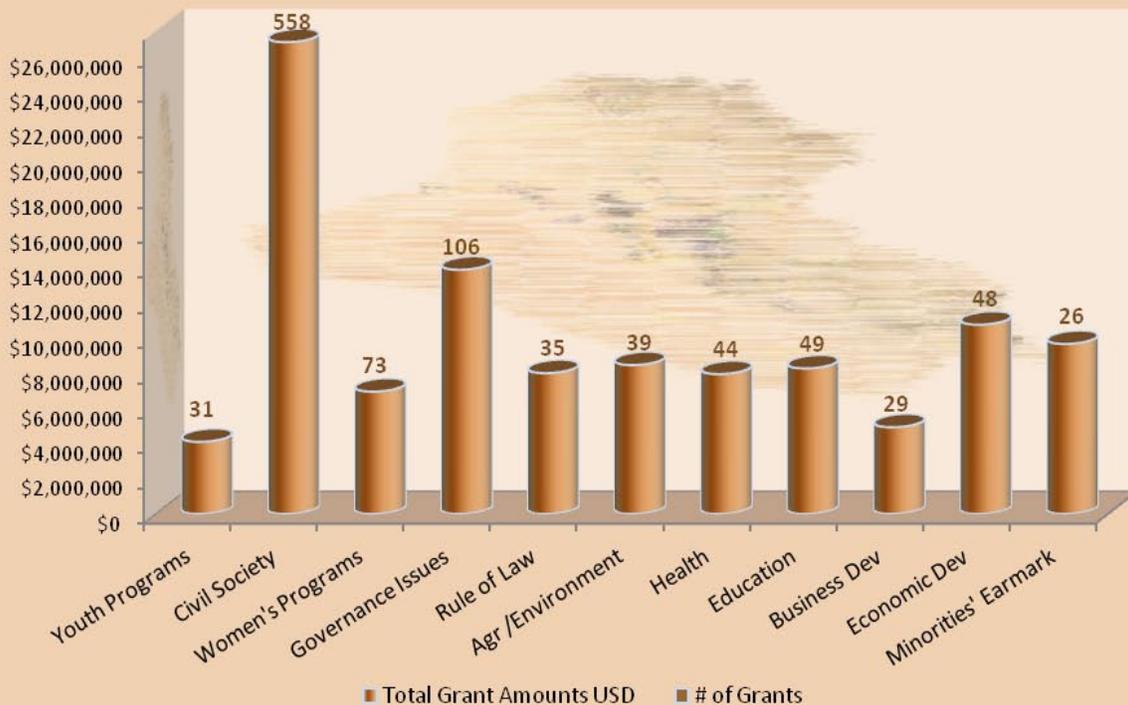
IRAP Grant Highlight

An individual's gain can profit entire communities. Having completed a basic computer skills course through the IRAP funded Samarra Women's Computer Training Program, one industrious IRAP grant beneficiary ultimately went on to train the rest of her school's staff. IRAP Grant Managers report that the course enabled another woman beneficiary to pass on her new found computer skills to her entire family. In all, approximately 75 women aged 15 - 50 attended this 7 month basic computer skills course.

The grant included funding assistance to establish a women's only internet café. The self sustaining café charges a nominal entrance fee and targets high school graduates, gifted youngsters and university graduates. Women are entering the workplace in ever increasing numbers as communities throughout Iraq start to modernize. This grant has provided opportunities for women to increase their marketable skills in an increasingly competitive marketplace that is all too often gender selective.

IRAP Grants [QRF and CSCM] By Focus Area

*As of June 30, 2010 (Cancelled grants not included)



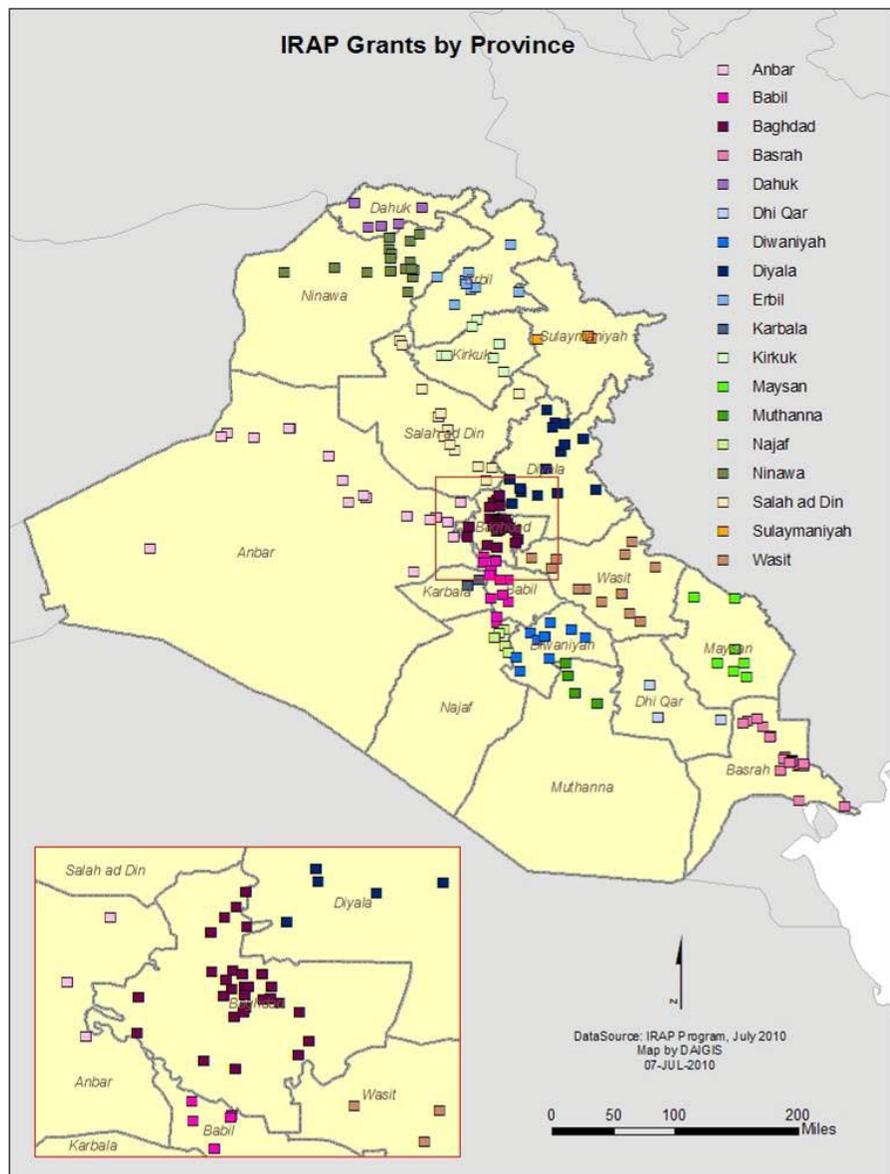
IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

A. Strategy Going Forward

With IRAP grant activities due to conclude by July 31, staff will continue to focus on grant close-outs and coordination of implementation efforts toward the successful conclusion of remaining active projects.

To date, IRAP has successfully completed close-out for 616 QRF grants totaling approximately \$59.5 million. A total of 193 QRF grants valued at approximately \$27.8 million currently remain active. A total of 80 remaining cleared QRF grants are nearing completion while 113 completed QRF grants are in the close-out process. A total of 214 IRAP/CSCM grants valued at approximately \$18.4 million have been successfully closed.

IRAP’s remaining CSCM portfolio includes 15 grants valued at approximately \$4.1 million. Activities for 3 of these CSCM projects have been completed and these grants are in the close-out process. Implementation of all 12 remaining cleared CSCM grants is nearing completion. During this reporting period 378 grants totaling about \$29.6 million achieved close-out approval. To date, 80% of IRAP’s total QRF/CSCM project portfolio of 1,038 grants is closed, with 208 QRF/CSCM grants nearing completion or preparing for close-out.



IRAP SPDOs will continue finalization of monitoring and evaluation reports in close collaboration with grantees and PRT/ePRTs. SPDOs will intensify coordination with Sr. Grant Managers, IRAP local partner organization representatives and IRAP Grant Managers.

IRAP Grant Highlight

Approximately 50 women, primarily widows, were employed as beekeepers in a northern area of Babil province once fractured by sectarian violence. The IRAP funded grant assisted them to improve their economic independence and their ability to support their families. IRAP support came just in time to prevent homelessness for one beneficiary. The long term program provided practical and theoretical training in bees, beehive management and maintenance as well as equipment maintenance.



Technical advisors contracted under the grant provided constant guidance and follow up once the training component was complete, and facilitated marketing assistance for women establishing honey production businesses in Seddah City and Jabella district. Traditional Iraqi cultural sensitivities often serve to drastically limit women's economic opportunities. Beekeeping and honey production, however, is one field that has meshed with notably well with traditional Iraqi values, allowing women to work within a family business while also providing ample time for them to attend to their families and other household duties.

This IRAP project has received considerable local media coverage and community profile as this season's fruit harvests were especially abundant due to the excess bee pollination made possible by this grant.

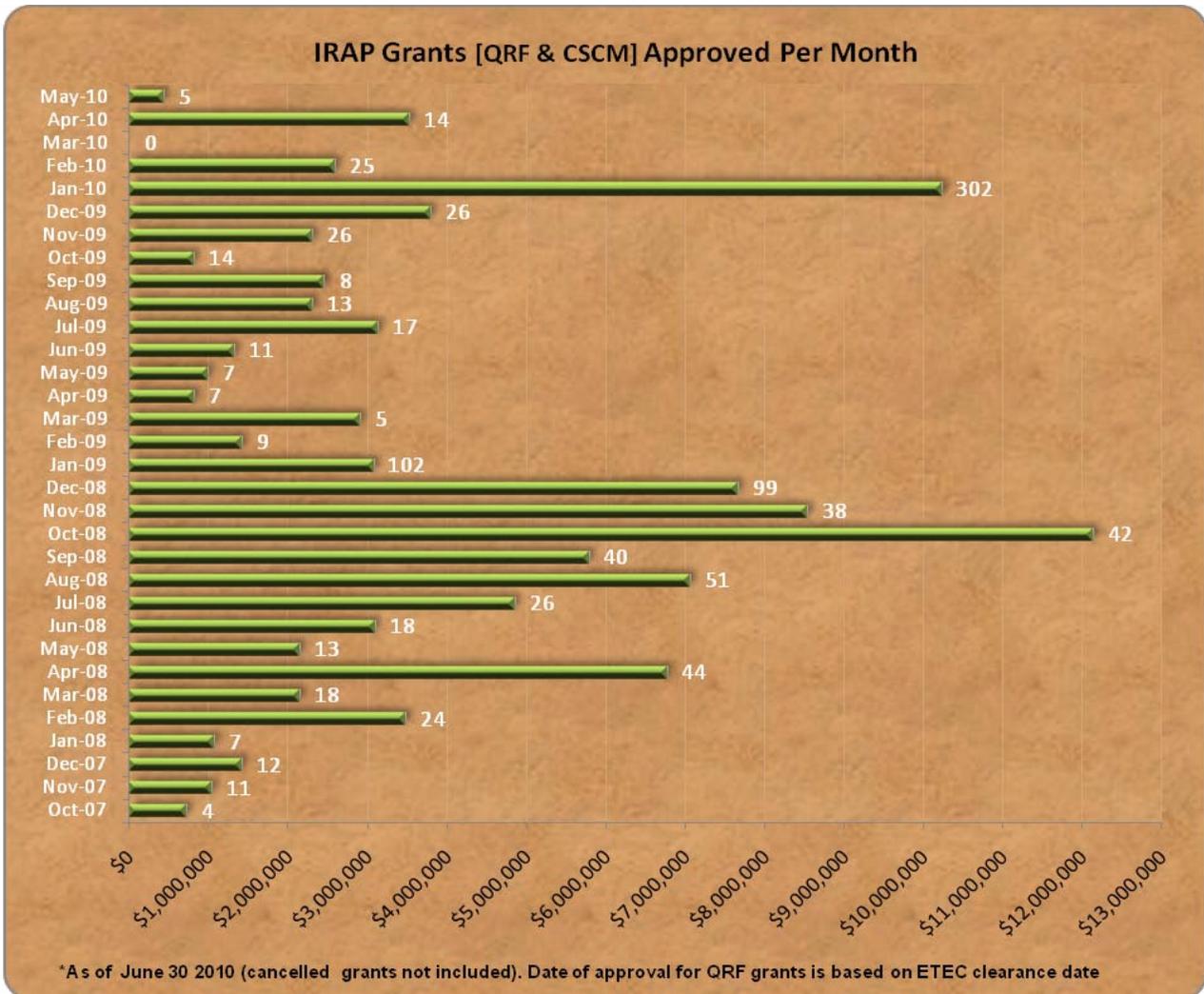
IRAP SPDOs will continue finalization of monitoring and evaluation reports in close collaboration with grantees and PRT/ePRTs. SPDOs will intensify coordination with Sr. Grant Managers, IRAP local partner organization representatives and Grant Managers throughout all regions to facilitate smooth implementation of remaining active projects as well as efficient grant close-out.

B. Personnel Update

This quarter the IRAP IZ team welcomed Ibtihal Mohammad as a Sr. Grant Manager specializing in grant close-outs. Ms Mohammad brings several years of program experience to the Sr Grant Management team. Having served as a Grant Manager for approximately three years with DAI's previous OTI [Office of Transition Initiatives] program in Iraq and with a two year term as a case manager for a non -profit US agency, assisting refugee resettlement in the United States, Ms Mohammad has complemented the Sr. Grant Management team's ability to efficiently streamline this quarter's large volume of grant close-outs while continuing implementation support for IRAP's remaining active projects.

Four IRAP local staffers have departed over the course of this report period. IRAP Baghdad Office bids farewell to three Grant Managers - Zina Badri, Basma Askar and Abbas Sabah, while IRAP's north regional Erbil Office has witnessed the departure of Assistant Project Development Officer Awat Yazeen.

All departures were made possible by the International Organization for Migration and the Special Immigrant Visa program. Each team member has emigrated from Iraq to the United States, and IRAP wishes them every success in their new endeavors.



C. Finance

IRAP Finance Director Mr. Fidele Nkulu continued to maintain the program’s accounting and internal tracking systems. This quarter, Mr. Nkulu has again worked closely with IRAP local staff to ensure compliance with IRAP’s administrative project guidelines and to compile all documentation required for successful grant close-out. Financial reports continued to be submitted monthly to USAID within the appropriate time frames and using the required format.