



FACT SHEET

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN IRAQ

USAID Assistance to Iraq

Since March 2003, The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has implemented nearly \$6.4 billion in activities designed to strengthen infrastructure; stabilize communities; foster economic and agricultural growth; and build the capacity of the national, local, and provincial governments to represent and respond to the needs of the Iraqi people. The partnership between the Iraqis and USAID has been critical to stabilizing and shaping a self-reliant and prosperous Iraq.

Focused Stabilization

USAID/Iraq's Community Stabilization Program (CSP), which completed operations in October 2009, contributed to the U.S. and Iraqi Governments' counterinsurgency efforts to promote stability at various levels by providing jobs, training, small grants, and small infrastructure projects to communities affected by insurgent violence. CSP operated in 17 insurgency affected cities in order to support the U.S. military's surge. The program aimed at reducing incentives for participation in violent conflict by employing or engaging at-risk youth aged 12 to 35.

Key accomplishments include:

- Since its inception in 2006, the USAID stabilization efforts directly employed 47,298 individuals on a long-term basis.
- Vocational training activities graduated a total of 41,443 trainees throughout Iraq .
- 9,932 vocational training graduates were placed in program-supported apprenticeship programs.
- 15,138 have successfully completed the business management training courses.
- Approved grants to 10,257 business owners valued at over \$77.4 million.
- Enrolled nearly 339,000 Iraqi youth in soccer, the arts, and life skills programs.

Democracy & Governance

Community Action: USAID works at the grassroots level to foster citizen involvement in meeting local development needs. The Community Action Program (CAP) facilitates the creation and training of community action groups responsible for identifying and prioritizing community needs, mobilizing community and other resources, and monitoring project implementation. To date, USAID has committed over \$452 million to more than 7,700 projects and trainings while Iraqi communities have contributed more than \$120 million. From 2003-2008 the employment opportunities generated by the program have generated more than 2 million short-term and 49,000 long-term jobs.

Assisting Civilian Victims of Armed Conflict: USAID assists Iraqi civilians, families and communities who have been directly affected by coalition military operations. USAID provides assistance to innocent victims of war or their families either with direct medical help, replacing

damaged property, or helping them establish businesses such as grocery stores, bakeries, electronics shops or farms. To date, the Marla Fund has supported more than 2,000 individual and community projects that directly benefit victims.

Local Governance: At the request of the Government of Iraq, USAID has worked closely with Iraqis in all 18 governorates to improve planning capacity at the provincial and local level by working with Provincial Councils to develop Provincial Development Strategies (PDS). With the support of the Iraqi Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Planning, and the U.S. Embassy's Office of Provincial Affairs, the USAID Local Governance Program (LGP) initiated regional conferences to guide participants from each province through the process of formulating a PDS. LGP provided advisors in local governance, public finance, public works, agriculture, economics, electricity, solid waste, city management, public affairs, public administration, conflict mitigation, water management, municipal engineering, privatization, hospitality and tourism, budget execution, and other areas as needed to strengthen and enhance local government.

Key accomplishments include:

- Sponsored and supported training and technical assistance that reached more than 31,500 people.
- Provided more than 6,600 core or supplemental training sessions.
- Provided technical assistance on nearly 6,000 occasions.
- Provided on-demand technical support for women's leadership, geographic information system, media outreach, and business planning to address Iraqi officials' current needs.
- Supported the definition and codification of the powers and authorities of local government by assisting the Iraq Local Government Association (LGA) and helping it draft and lobby for necessary legislation.
- Enabled all 18 provinces of Iraq to institute a widely participatory strategic planning process. Each PDS has then been refined to create a Provincial Development Plan (PDP) that lists specific projects presented to the central government for funding, and with overall goals consistent with those of Iraq's National Development Plan.
- Supported all 18 provinces with equipment, software, technical assistance, and training to establish geographic information system units and to complete digitized base mapping for their major cities' municipal services networks, road networks, and property boundaries.

Private Sector Development

In September 2004, the USAID-funded *Izdihar* project began working with the Government of Iraq (GOI) and the country's private sector to help promote a market-based economy. Building upon the foundation created by the *Izdihar* program, USAID's current *Tijara* program continues to develop and support key initiatives.

USAID/Iraq has helped fill the microfinance gap and stimulate private sector growth in Iraq, playing a lead role in establishing a micro, small and medium scale enterprise sector in Iraq. Since its inception, the microfinance program has distributed more than 137,000 loans, valued at more than \$316 million.

USAID helped instill entrepreneurial skills to Iraqis through 14 Small Business Development Centers which provided business skills training for more than 7,100 entrepreneurs. USAID has



expanded the range of related business services to provide business consulting services, training courses, and direct and indirect support to the local business communities through activities and programs designed to strengthen and upgrade business knowledge and relationships.

In addition, USAID helped establish the Iraqi Company for Bank Guarantees. This company has helped incentivize private bank lending to small and medium-sized enterprises nationwide. Currently, 16 member banks, 13 of which are shareholders, have approved and disbursed 405 loan guarantees for the total amount of \$7.6 million.

USAID has assisted the government in standing-up a National Investment Commission, so it can build new and effective trade relations with the rest of the world. This has included helping the Commission develop by-laws and implementing regulations for investment law, and a one-stop-shop that promotes international investment in Iraq.

Humanitarian Assistance

USAID's office of U.S. Foreign Assistance works through nine partner organizations to implement programs spanning all of Iraq's 18 governorates, providing assistance to bolster health, distribute emergency relief supplies, build or fortify shelter and settlements, generate income, support host communities, collect and analyze IDP and returnee data, coordinate humanitarian programs, and improve water, sanitation, and hygiene. OFDA activities include provisions to enable partners to rapidly respond and adapt to emerging needs. Additionally, USAID's U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance has helped the Government of Iraq's Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) to manage information related to internally displaced persons.

Key accomplishments include:

- Contributed more than \$340 million in humanitarian assistance for vulnerable populations in Iraq.
- In 2008 alone, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$75 million in humanitarian assistance through activities that benefited approximately 1 million IDPs and host families in Iraq.
- Contributed more than \$37 million to support ongoing emergency assistance to IDPs, host communities, and returnees.
- Since 2003, USAID/OFDA implementing partners have provided emergency relief commodities to approximately 725,000 of the most vulnerable Iraqis, of which a significant majority were IDPs.

Agriculture

Agricultural Development: Since 2003, USAID has been actively involved in restoring the viability of the Iraqi agricultural sector for eventual integration into the international market. Agriculture employs approximately 15% of the workforce and accounts for five percent of the gross domestic product making it second only to oil in terms of importance to the country's economy, agriculture employs 27 percent of the population and accounts for seven percent of the gross domestic product. From 2003 through the fall of 2006, USAID restored veterinary clinics, introduced improved cereal grain varieties and improved management practices for sorghum, wheat, barley, and broad beans. Additionally, the Ministry of Water Resources Soil and Water Laboratory were provided equipment and training on maintenance and operation.



USAID rehabilitated 66 veterinary clinics, responsible for serving almost 5 million animals and 130,000 animal breeders. To ensure the health and vitality of the livestock USAID provided a vaccination program for over 570,000 sheep against brucellosis in Maysan, Dhi-Qar, Diwaniyah, Basrah, and Muthanna, which reduced the incidence of abortion and increased flock sizes.

Agribusiness: USAID's current agriculture program, known simply as *Inma*, the Arabic word for "growth," works at the provincial level to support the development of agribusinesses and agricultural markets, improving farmer livelihoods and energizing Iraq's single largest source of employment and second largest value sector.

Key accomplishments include:

- Imported 12,400 fingerlings from Hungary to improve the fish potential for rapid growth and improved market value.
- Increased the gross sales of local fish by program assisted fish farms by \$6 million.
- Assisted 3,611 farmers through program activities.
- Increased the total gross sales of enterprises by \$23.8 million.
- Increased employment in the agriculture/agribusiness sectors by 15,556 individuals.

Marshlands: Between 1991 and 2003 the Mesopotamian Marshlands, one of the largest wetland systems in the world, were nearly destroyed by Saddam Hussein's regime. USAID mobilized an Iraqi and international team in February 2004 to convene in Basrah to design an action plan for the marshlands restoration program. The program, led by the Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) in cooperation with USAID and other donors, worked to restore the marshland ecosystem through improved management and strategic re-flooding. Additionally, the program worked to provide social and economic assistance to Marsh Arabs including health, education, and rural development. Re-flooding efforts since 2003 have increased the marshlands from 1/10 to 1/3 of their original size, making the wetlands the largest in the Middle East. USAID expanded agriculture and agribusiness to diversify production, improve livestock and dairy production, and restock fish populations in the marshlands. Among these activities USAID established 72 demonstration farms and 30 alfalfa farms in the marshes to provide livestock feed and released more than 225,000 fish fingerlings to restock the local fish population.

Economic Growth

USAID's economic governance program assisted the Government of Iraq's efforts to create an economic policy environment that encourages investment and is transparent. To do this, USAID provided advisory and training services to help develop a sound fiscal and monetary framework. The economic governance program was completed in September 2009.

Key accomplishments include:

- The rollout of the social safety net system nationwide which automates the registry and tracking of beneficiaries and is currently benefitting one million families.
- Produced the Financial Management Information System, which upgrades paper ledger accounting systems to an automated accounting system and has been transitioned to the Ministry of Finance.
- Developed monetary policy tools, including foreign exchange auction, reserve requirements, and overnight deposits, for the Central Bank.

- Integrated business registry systems which eased start-up requirements, with 47,000 businesses registered across the country.

Health

USAID, in partnership with UNICEF and World Health Organization (WHO), helped the Ministry of Health (MoH) build capacity to enhance policy, increase access to healthcare, and improve essential services for mothers and children. USAID's programmatic activities in the health sector began in 2003 and were concluded in 2006. USAID is in the process of initiating a health program which will build the capacity of the Ministry of Health (MOH).

Strengthening Health Services: Through training and technical assistance programs, USAID strengthened essential healthcare services throughout Iraq. USAID and UNICEF helped to build the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Health to improve services and ensure sustainable growth and development of the health sector.

Key accomplishments include:

- Provided skills training to 3,200 primary care providers and physicians.
- Trained 2,000 health educators, teachers, religious leaders, and youth to mobilize communities on hygiene, diarrhea, breastfeeding, nutrition, and immunization issues.
- Established training and education centers in five governorates to support local healthcare training.
- Provided vaccines and cold chain equipment to selected remote health centers along with training of staff and social mobilization has increased routine immunization coverage from 60 to 74 percent.
- Minimized epidemics by re-establishing a disease surveillance and response system.

Improving Access to Quality Healthcare: USAID programs improved the health of vulnerable populations in Iraq by increasing access to high quality, community-based primary healthcare. USAID has helped renovate medical facilities and equip hundreds of primary healthcare centers. Additionally, mobile medical units and trained primary health workers have helped to bring essential healthcare services to remote and underserved areas.

Key accomplishments include:

- Constructed six new primary healthcare centers.
- Renovated 110 medical facilities.
- Equipped 600 centers with basic clinical and lab equipment.
- Trained over 2,500 primary healthcare workers to improve access countrywide.
- Established five mobile medical units, provided basic training to medical staff, and supplied medication sufficient for 25,000 people.
- Disseminated public health information to families around the country.

Preventing Communicable Disease Outbreaks: USAID's support to immunization programs had visible results in minimizing the spread of childhood infectious diseases and for the duration of USAID's health initiative, there were no communicable disease outbreaks in Iraq. As a result of extensive national immunization and vaccination campaigns Iraq remained free of polio and cases of

measles, the leading cause of vaccine-preventable deaths in childhood, were reduced by 90 percent between 2004 and 2005.

USAID also supported the Ministry of Health in delivering routine immunizations through the provision of vaccines, syringes, cold chain equipment, and other supplies. In combination with USAID-supported social mobilization efforts, Iraq has seen a 23 percent increase in routine immunizations.

Key accomplishments include:

- Vaccinated 3.2 million children under age 5 and 700,000 pregnant women with vaccination campaigns in partnership with UNICEF and WHO.
- Immunized 98 percent of children 1-3 years (3.62 million children) against measles, mumps, and rubella during 2005. As a result, there has been a 90 percent reduction in laboratory confirmed cases of measles between 2004 and 2005.
- Immunized 97 percent of children under five (4.56 million) against polio during the 2004-05 national polio immunization campaign, keeping Iraq polio-free.
- Routine immunization coverage - encouraged by provision of supplies, capacity building efforts, and social mobilization campaigns - increased from 60 percent in 2003 to 74 percent in 2005, a 23 percent increase.

Helping Improve Nutrition for Women and Children: Chronic and wide-spread under-nutrition affected nearly 30 percent of children under the age of five in 2003. Iraqi women similarly suffer from poor nutrition and severe anemia. USAID programs confronted these issues through a series of initiatives which focused on the distribution of vitamins and enriched foods. Building on USAID support, the Government of Iraq developed an Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Strategy to serve as a guide for action in the areas nutrition, child health and development, maternal and reproductive health, and household food security. This national strategy, based on the World Health Organization strategy, brings together public and private stakeholders across Iraq to ensure coverage and improve nutrition.

Key accomplishments include:

- Developed a national plan to fortify wheat flour with iron and folic acid. Delivered a total of 165 metric tons of iron and folic acid supplements.
- Provided supplementary doses of vitamin A for more than 1.5 million nursing mothers and 600,000 children under two, and iron folate supplements for over 1.6 million women of childbearing age.
- Trained 11,400 staff at over 2,000 community child care units to screen for malnutrition and to provide monthly rations of high protein biscuits to malnourished children and pregnant mothers.
- Provided supplementary doses of vitamin A for more than 600,000 children under age 2 and 1.5 million lactating mothers
- Provided iron folate supplements for over 1.6 million women of childbearing age
- Screened more than 1.3 million children under age 5 for malnutrition
- Distributed high protein biscuits to more than 450,000 children and 200,000 pregnant women and nursing mothers

Reducing Child Mortality: In 2003 UNDP estimated that the mortality rate for children under 5 was 40 deaths per 1000 live births in Iraq; nearly the highest in the region. Preventable diseases such as

respiratory illness, diarrhea, measles, and malaria were the main cause of the high mortality rate and were further compounded by high levels of malnutrition. USAID's effectiveness in restoring essential services significantly improved treatment of these illnesses by providers and reduced children's risk of dying from these diseases.

In 2005 alone, USAID-supported emergency campaigns immunized 3.62 million Iraqi children between the ages of one and five (98 percent) against measles, mumps, and rubella and immunized 4.56 million Iraqi children under five (97 percent) against polio.

Key accomplishments include:

- Improved the health of vulnerable populations in Iraq by increasing access to high quality, community-based primary healthcare.
- Constructed six new primary healthcare centers, renovated 110 medical facilities, and equipped 600 centers with basic clinical and lab equipment.
- Provided mobile medical units and trained primary health workers to bring essential healthcare services to remote and underserved areas.
- Supplied medication and trained more than 3,200 Iraqi primary care providers and physicians to expand access to essential primary health care services. USAID's health activities were completed by Summer 2006, but coordination with Iraq's Ministry of Health and other donors continues.

Education

Transforming Primary Education: USAID worked with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to increase enrollment, improve the quality of primary and secondary education, and ensure that classrooms have sufficient supplies. These programs were successfully completed by July 2006 and resulted in the rehabilitation of nearly 3,000 schools (24% of Iraq's schools), and the training of 33,000 secondary school teachers and administrators (of which 15,513 are female), and 860 master trainers (264 females). USAID also provided school supply kits to 2 million secondary school students and supplied more than 8.6 million textbooks to schools across Iraq.

Restoring Excellence in Higher Education: USAID brought together five American and 10 Iraqi universities to help reestablish academic excellence in Iraq's higher education system. Through these partnerships, more than 1,500 Iraqi faculty and students have participated in workshops, trainings, conferences, and courses in Iraq, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States. USAID rehabilitated and equipped 23 specialist libraries, 23 computer labs, 20 specialist science labs, and 17 auditoriums, benefiting approximately 50,000 university students. In addition, books and electronic resources have been provided to university libraries throughout Iraq. To date, more than 1,500 Iraqi faculty and students have participated in workshops, trainings, conferences, and courses in Iraq, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States.

Essential Services

Expanding Access to Electricity: The U.S. government made significant progress in improving electricity supply in Iraq and allowing for more equitable distribution throughout the country. Through USAID's infrastructure program 1,292 megawatts of electric generating capacity was rehabilitated or added to Iraq's power grid, through new generation, maintenance and rehabilitation work, supplying



power to more than 7 million Iraqis. To assure proper operation and maintenance of the power plants, USAID trained more than 240 Ministry of Electricity officials, plant managers, and engineers. Additionally, USAID rebuilt several hundred kilometers of 400 KV transmission line including the Khor az Zubayr-Nasiriyah transmission line, and rehabilitated or constructed 37 distribution substations in Baghdad to improve the distribution and reliability of electricity for more than two million residents..

Restoring Sewage Systems and Providing Potable Water: In 2003, Iraq's 140 major water treatment facilities were operating at about 35 percent of their design capacity (3 billion liters a day) due to inadequate maintenance, lack of plant operators, power shortages, and looting. USAID helped to improve the efficiency and reliability of existing treatment facilities, and constructed several new facilities. Iraq has 13 major wastewater treatment facilities, operating at about a quarter of their design capacity. Baghdad's three sewage plants, comprising three quarters of the nation's total sewage treatment capacity, were not treating waste for more than six years before the conflict, allowing raw waste to flow into the Tigris River. In the rest of the country, most wastewater treatment facilities were only partly operational before the conflict, and a shortage of electricity, parts, and trained staff exacerbated the situation.

Key accomplishments include:

- Refurbished 10 sewage treatment plants in eight cities in Iraq, processing 300 million gallons daily and providing treatment for an additional 5.1 million Iraqis.
- Repaired and refurbished several major water and wastewater treatment plants which provided more than 3.1 million more Iraqis access to potable drinking water.
- Refurbished or expanded 19 water treatment plants in five cities in Iraq.
- Constructed 70 small water treatment plants serving rural villages.
- Rehabilitated the Sweet Water Canal system: repairing breaches, cleaning and repairing the main water storage and settling reservoir and refurbished existing sewage lines and pump stations serving the Kadhamiya area of western Baghdad.
- Provided plant-level operations and maintenance support at major potable water plants and wastewater treatment plants nationwide to ensure that these plants continue to function.

Transportation and Telecommunications: Iraq's transportation networks provide vital support to commerce, culture, and infrastructure. USAID's efforts helped to rebuild these major transportation routes to restore the flow of humanitarian goods and services, and to reestablish commercial links.

Key accomplishments include:

- Completed an assessment of more than 1,100 kilometers of railroad track and rail facilities throughout the country.
- Assisted with the construction of 72 kilometers of new track and rail facilities between the Port of Umm Qasr and Shuaiba Junction, located west of Basrah, and connecting to the Baghdad trunklines. Rebuilt three priority bridges including two in Anbar province and one in Erbil.
- Completed 36 detailed assessments and demolished irreparable bridge sections in the rebuilding of three key bridges: the Al Mat Bridge, the Khazir Bridge, and the Tikrit Bridge.