



ARC International (ARC)

Final Narrative Report

For DFD-G-00-03-00046-00

Humanitarian Emergency Assistance Program for Iraq

May 6, 2003 to September 6, 2003

Submitted to:

USAID / Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance

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I. Executive Summary

Program Title: Humanitarian Emergency Assistance Program for Iraq

Country/Region: Southern and Central Governorates of Iraq

Disaster: Limited Humanitarian disaster in Iraq, including localized displacement of persons

Area of Activity: Kuwait (operational base in Kuwait City for humanitarian response management in south-central Iraq) and Southern and Central Governorates of Iraq (operational bases, rapid assessments and implementation of relief activities in south-central Iraq).

Period of Activity: May 6, 2003 to September 6, 2003 (4 months -including 1-month No-Cost Extension granted in August 2003)

Dollar Amount Requested of OFDA: \$542,047

Dollar Amount Requested from Other Sources \$19,251

Total Dollar Amount of Project \$561,298

Total Number/Type of Beneficiaries: 14.5 million affected population of the Southern and Central Governorates, including an approximate 270,000 anticipated returned Refugees from Iran.

The total percentage of this population accessible for assistance through the direct implementation of Quick Impact Projects by ARC/IRAC staff is yet to be determined. Please see below for beneficiary results relating to each individual Quick Impact Project.

History of the Disaster and Justification for Activities Coalition Force activities have essentially ceased without having created a “projected catastrophic Humanitarian Crisis: Yet, the effects of the war has resulted in more difficult areas to define and are being seen with the difficult problem of re-establishing essential services of food distribution, potable water, medical care, electricity and re-starting daily life sustaining activities. The condition of the Iraqi people’s lives had previously been marginalized by international sanctions and now exacerbated by the war and the ensuing mass looting. Mitigating further decline and tackling more broadly defined and sometimes hidden humanitarian needs before reconstruction can take place is essential.

Goal:

Expand and effectuate appropriate and effective response to the Iraq humanitarian crisis in secure and accessible locations of the southern and central governorates of Iraq.

Objective 1: Train two emergency intervention teams from the Iraqi refugee community in Iran for operations inside Iraq: one emergency medical aid team and one emergency aid distribution team, each team consisting of approximately one-hundred emergency staff.

Please note that Objective 1 was completed with separate funds before implementation of the project under OFDA funding. For the purposes of this report ARC will describe activities and achievements under the OFDA-funded project for Objectives 2 and 3.

Objective 2: Establish and implement a training and a broadly defined support and capacity building plan for the strengthening of the capability of our partners, the Iraqi Refugee Aid Council and other indigenous National NGOs as appropriate.

Geographic area of activity: Kuwait City, Al Amarah, Basrah and Al Nasiriyah.

Number/Type of Beneficiaries: Direct Beneficiaries: IRAC implementing staff to more effectively plan, support, implement, manage and monitor humanitarian interventions in the southern and central Governorates of Iraq.

Expected Results: IRAC, in conjunction with ARC, will be able to more effectively expand humanitarian activities within our target areas. Enhanced capability to assess (using tools developed by the international community), plan, implement, monitor, reporting and financial/grant management will be key elements leading to greater efficiency, effectiveness and expansion of service capability. Helping to encourage the creation of other indigenous NGOs will also be a focus.

Indicators:

- 1>Operational base established and registered in Kuwait
- 2>Technical and management personnel deployed to Kuwait
- 3>Training sessions planned and conducted in topical areas
- 4>Trained Technical and Management personnel deployed to Iraq

Performance baseline data: Training program for Humanitarian emergency agents in Kuwait will allow for a more effective deployment inside south-central Iraq immediately following the military interventions in the region. ARC and IRAC will have technical and emergency specialists deployed to conduct rapid assessments and respond during the acute phase utilizing medical response and humanitarian aid distribution teams domiciled in the region. Regular meetings will evidence close collaboration with the DART members and utilization, as requested by the DART, of pre-positioned humanitarian supplies.

Objective 3: Reinforce established bases of operations with trained staff in the secure and accessible governorates in southern and central Iraq to conduct rapid assessments and to effectively carry out humanitarian interventions in this region through Quick Impact Projects. ARC/IRAC interventions will include water and sanitation, primary health care, temporary shelter, and food security. ARC, an established US NGO, will continue to accept consignment and with IRAC, provide distribution of relief materials pre-positioned by the US Government, other donors, international and local, as well as other materials as required.

Geographic area of activity: Initially three governorates in south-central Iraq: Basrah, Al Amarah and Al Nasiriyah. Others will follow as resources allow.

Number/Type of Beneficiaries: Direct Beneficiaries: 14.5 million affected populations of the southern and central Governorates, including an estimated 270,000 expected returning refugees from Iran to the south and other Governorates. (The percentage of this population accessible for assistance through the direct implementation of Quick Impact Projects by ARC/IRAC staff is yet to be determined.)

Expected Results: Operational bases in three southern and central governorates are established and initial response to the humanitarian crisis is carried out immediately following the stabilization of this region in close collaboration with the DART team and other operational partners

Indicators:

- 1>First operational base established in Basrah
- 2>Additional operational bases established in secure/accessible governorates in south-central Iraq
- 3>Response teams trained and deployed for rapid assessments
- 4>Trained response teams respond to acute emergency phase, including water and sanitation, primary health care, shelter, NFI distribution, etc.

Performance baseline data: Expanded operational capability of the operational base staff will be more systematic in conducting assessment in a proscribed manner and will have the skill sets necessary to run an operation at a higher activity level.

Project Implementation and Report on Activities under Objectives 2 and 3

Prior to project implementation ARC/IRAC had established an operational base in Kuwait that facilitated and coordinated activities to address the consequences of a humanitarian assistance program in southern Iraq. ARC and IRAC deployed staff to Kuwait and inside south-central Iraq, initially in Basrah, Al Amarah and Al Nasiriyah.

From the Kuwait base, ARC and IRAC continually assessed the situation and coordinated its activities inside Iraq with the DART. The ARC and IRAC core team of technical specialists and emergency response managers directed the base in Kuwait.

As the situation has allowed, the ARC and IRAC team entered and established offices in secured areas and set up three operational bases in three population centers in southern and central Iraq.

These team members conducted the following activities:

- Liaise, consult and coordinate with community leaders, professionals and tribal leaders in towns and regions of operation;
- Assess humanitarian needs in the areas based on these consultations as well as the teams' own observations in the field;
- Based on these field assessments, prepared project proposals for an expanded program to meet the humanitarian needs in the region;

Based on findings of the rapid assessments and the information assembled by the DART, the team designed and implemented a total of 10 quick impact projects (QIPs) in Maysan province.

Described below, the projects were intended to significantly improve the lives of the people in the stated region.

QIP No: 1 Ali Al-Garbi Hospital

Objective

Restoration of functioning sewage and toilet systems in Ali-Al-Garbi Hospital

Background

Ali Al-Garbi is a town in the northern part of Missan Governorate. It has a population of 35,000 but this is expected to increase by at least 5,000 when people return from Iran. The town is near the Iranian border.

Ali Al-Garbi hospital has 50 inpatient beds. The hospital surgical unit performs upwards of 200 cases yearly. An estimated 300 people are seen daily in Outpatients. The hospital services an area with a population of about 60,000. It was slightly damaged when the adjacent telecommunications centre was bombed during the war. The three existing septic tanks were installed 23 years ago and are leaking and essentially nonfunctional. The drains are blocked and sewage is rising through the toilets, which are in very poor condition. It is also rising through the floors and running into the hospital. There are very serious public health implications as a result of this situation.

Input

Four new large septic tanks were constructed and the existing sewer system was replaced. The four sets of toilets (each with three WCs) were also fully refurbished together with wash-hand basins, plumbing, electrics, windows and doors. In addition wall tiling and painting of washrooms were completed.

Beneficiaries

60,000 people in Ali Al-Garbi district who form the catchment population for this hospital.

QIP No: 2 Ali Al-Garbi Hospital : New Generator

The generator for Ali-Al-Garbi Hospital was very old and inefficient. It provided a maximum of eight hours electricity a day and thus created a major problem for many parts of the hospital, particularly during operations and in the running of the blood bank.

ARC replaced two blades of the fan, and installed one new 165 kVA generator.

QIP No: 3 Ali Al-Garbi Main Water Pumping Station

Objective

Restoration of full water supply to population in Ali Al-Garbi district

Background

Ali Al-Garbi is a town in the northern part of Missan Governorate. It has a population of 35,000 but this is expected to increase by at least 5,000 when people return from Iran. The town is very near the Iranian boarder. The total population of Ali Al-Garbi district is 60,000.

The Ali Al-Garbi water pumping station is relatively modern, having been built about 20 years ago. There are 10 horizontal pumps supplying Ali-Al-Garbi town and seven village sub stations. All of these, plus the two lifting pumps that are located in a separate building, were assessed by the Water Department. The system was apparently partly serviced four years ago by UNICEF.

Input

All the pumps needed servicing to a greater or lesser extent and also needed spare parts such as ball-bearings, brushes and coils. The rest of the system, filters and chlorinators, appeared to be in a satisfactory condition. However, the control panel and its electrical system needed servicing. A supply of circuit breakers was also needed.

At the present moment 32,000 people in Ali Al-Garbi district are receiving only 50% of the potential water supply. ARC was told that 9,000 people, who could receive water, were not receiving any. As result of servicing the system, all these people should now receive a full supply.

Beneficiaries

41,000 people living in Ali Al-Garbi district.

OIP No: 4 Ali Al-Garbi : 7 Village Pumping Stations

Objective

Restoring full water supply to 19,000 people in the rural areas of Ali Al-Garbi district

Background

There are seven water pumping sub stations in Ali Al-Garbi district. These are designed to supply a rural population of about 19,000. When examined by ARC, the sub-stations were functioning poorly. They were partly serviced four years ago by UNICEF. Due to low pressure and very intermittent electricity, at the beginning of the project implementation, they barely worked for two hours a day.

Input

ARC serviced each sub station and supplied a 15 kVA generator to boost the system.

Beneficiaries

19,000 people in Ali Al-Garbi district.

OIP No: 5 Ali Amarah: Majidia Water Supply Project

Objective:

Restoration of a full water supply to the population of Al-Majidia district.

Background

Al-Majidia district is in the north east part of Al Amara city. It has a population of 25 -30,000 people and it is one of the poorest parts of the city. The district originally had two water supplies, one from Al-Mushrah River and the other from the Al –Kahala River. This is a particularly high profile project in the centre of Al-Amara city. The targeted population was particularly disadvantaged and vulnerable and the project was widely approved by a general population.

The Intifada (uprising) in Al-Amarah city in 1991 started in the Al-Majidia district and, following its suppression, the water supply to the area from the Al-Kahala River was cut off as a punishment by the Iraqi Baathist regime. As a result of this, over half the population of the area was without running water and had to carry its supply directly from the river. This has meant great inconvenience and suffering for the population as well as a very high level of diarrhoeal diseases. The situation would have become worse as the population increased in size as people return from Iran.

Input

A steel intake jetty was built on the river bank for two submersible pumps (each 60 m³ /hr; 20m head) on the site of the previous pumping station. This jetty leads to a flocculation tank, filters, chlorinators

and two horizontal pumps (each 50 m³ /hr; 40m head), which in turn connects with the existing pipe distribution network of Majidia settlement area.

The Water Department of Al-Amara city provided the following equipment from their existing stocks:

- Three filtration tanks
- One flocculation tank

Equipment supplied by ARC under this proposal:

- Two submersible pumps (each 60 m³ /hr; 20m head)
- Two chlorinators
- Two horizontal booster pumps (each 50 m³ /hr; 40m head)
- Electric cable and control panel
- Assorted pipes, fittings and gate valves

Beneficiaries: 10 -15,000 people living in Al-Majidia district.

OIP No: 6 Ali Amarah : Majidia Backup Generator

In view of the very unreliable electricity supply that is experienced in Amarah town, it was vital for the Majidia Drinking Water project to succeed and be sustainable. A backup generator was required to ensure that all the electric pumps can be kept functional as required. One 80 kVA generator was installed complete with all fittings and switching gear.

OIP No: 7 Ali Amarah : Refurbishment of Orphanage

Objective

Refurbishment of the orphanage to enable the return of about 70 orphans and 30 staff

Background

Under the Social Services Department, an orphanage was built in Al-Amara city in 1970 and an additional wing was added in 2002. Before the war, 68 boys lived in the orphanage. They had all lost both parents. There were 40 boys between the ages of 5-12 and 28 boys between the ages of 13-18. 29 staff also lived in the orphanage. Some teaching was done at the orphanage but the boys had regular schooling at other sites. However, during the war local police and soldiers sought shelter in this orphanage (there are signs of AA guns within the premises). Towards the end of the war, there was general looting in Amara and all the contents of the orphanage including beds, tables, chairs, bathroom and kitchen equipment were all taken, as well as doors, window frames, switches and electric wiring, air conditioners and fans.

As the orphanage was not in usable condition, the orphans were believed to currently be living with relatives or friends. It is anticipated that as the orphanage has now been rehabilitated they will all return.

Input

ARC refurbished the orphanage including replacing doors, windows, window frames electric lights, electric wiring, fans, ACs, bathroom and kitchen fittings, plumbing and painting. ARC hopes to identify another donor who will be prepared to provide the necessary beds and other furniture and fittings as required.

Beneficiaries

68 boys and 29 staff

QIP No: 8 Al Majar Al-Kabir Hospital

Objective

Improving the hospital water supply and septic system

Background

Al Majar is a large town about 30 kms south east of Amarah. It is the second largest city in Missan Governorate with a population of about 80,000. This is expected to increase with refugee repatriation.

Al Majar Hospital has 110 inpatient beds. There are departments of General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Gynecology and Obstetrics and there is a small Blood Bank. The hospital treats about 300 Out-patients daily.

Although the hospital was not looted during the war, it was in very poor condition. Half of the hospital had no water supply at all, including the pediatric ward, in which there are three children to a bed. There was only one Septic Tank that was functioning properly and could be emptied by vacuum tanker as required. Sewage was pouring out of all the other septic tanks and sewers and is causing a serious health hazard. The Pediatric and General wards also required the provision of air conditioners as many of the children had high fever and the temperature in the wards exceeded 46° C. Many of the patients are Marsh Arabs.

Input

In order to greatly improve the hospital water supply, the project also installed an 8-10 m³ water tank (imported from Kuwait) on a concrete plinth at GL that is connected to the main town supply, which is also being upgraded (Refer QIP No 9). A pressure sphere fitted with pump was installed next to the tank to ensure constant pressure (Approx 4 – 5 Bars) to two 32mm Ø reticulation lines that serve the Emergency and Admin wings and the General Wards and Care Centre respectively. The water reticulation system within the hospital was inspected and is thought to be still intact. To help cool the Wards, ten Air Conditioners were provided.

Four x 10 m³ capacity brick and concrete Septic Tanks were constructed complete with manholes and sewer connections; one 8-10 m³ water tank installed; one pressure pump and pressure sphere; connecting pipes, fittings, valves and electric cables to pump. In addition, 10 air conditioners were provided for the General and Pediatric wards.

Beneficiaries

40,000 Inpatients plus Outpatients per year

QIP No: 9 Al Majar Main Water Pumping Station

Objective

Improvement of water supply to population of Al- Majar

Background

Al Majar is a large town about 30km south east of Al-Amara. It is the second biggest city in Missan Governorate, with a population of about 80,000. This is expected to increase when refugees return from Iran. The pumping station in Al-Majar was built in 1968. At that time the number of the population was about 15,000. The population has substantially increased since then due to migration from the villages to the town, as well as from natural population growth.

The engineer in charge of the pumping station stated that the unit was only functioning at 50-60% of its capacity. 20,000 people were being supplied at low pressure. This was due to lack of maintenance (it was last partly serviced by UNICEF four years ago) as well as a lack of spare parts due to the embargo. In addition, the machines themselves were approaching the end of their useful life. The town only received four hours of main electricity daily. There was an old generator but this was due to be replaced with a new 250 kVA generator in July by UNICEF.

The engineer was confident that with full servicing and replacement of parts the efficiency could be brought up to 90%. There were two low-lift pumps and two horizontal pumps. All needed servicing with replacement of ball-bearings, brushes, coils and gauges. There is a pumping sub station next to the main station and two further substations in the system, all of which needed servicing and parts.

Input

ARC serviced pumps and control panels, and purchased of spare parts including ball-bearings, brushes, coils, gauges, one chlorinator, valves for filters and pipes.

Beneficiaries: 20,000 people

OIP No: 10 Al Qurna Hospital (Basra)

Objective

Refurbishment of building to be used as a wing specifically for women

Background

Al-Qurna is a town in the northern part of Basra Governorate. It is on the main Basra -Amara road and on the west bank of the Tigris River at the confluence with the Euphrates River and the start of the Shatt Al Arab waterway. The population is about 60,000.

Al-Qurna General Hospital was built in 1946. It has 130 Inpatient beds and 16 Intensive Care beds. More than 3,000 Out-patients are seen monthly and between 280 and 300 operations are performed, also monthly. There are departments of General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Gynecology and Obstetrics.

The outpatient wing was taken over as the headquarters of the Mukhabarat (Special Intelligence Department) 15 years ago. A new Out-Patients department had to be found, and this is at the rear of the hospital. During the war the hospital was very badly looted and the Mukhabarat office was completely stripped of all contents as well as doors, windows, window frames, switches, sanitary items and electrical wiring. All fans and air conditioners were also looted.

The hospital currently services about 150,000 people in the Al-Qurna district, many of them Marsh Arabs.

Input

The existing heavily looted building was completely refurbished with new doors, windows, window frames, painting, plumbing, sanitary fittings, rewiring and new fans and air conditioners. The floor was re-laid in places. A gynecological theatre was included in the new building.

Beneficiaries: 1,000 female patients yearly.

Security and Logistical Concerns Affecting Project Implementation

On two occasions ARC staff was mandated to suspend operations due to increasing security concerns and at other times to delay or postpone travel to high risk areas. In addition, ARC staff was compelled to remain in Kuwait for several days during a security crisis in Iraq.