

## **Guidance for Private Donations to Iraq**

U.S. Department of State

The Office of Private Assistance is now open and functioning within the Department of State's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. This office is involved in reviewing and providing coordination assistance to all private entities and individuals seeking to help advance reconstruction efforts in Iraq. All individuals, civic organizations, or businesses looking for information on the process for making private financial or in-kind donations, or for coordinating other private initiatives such as mentoring or long-distance partnerships should coordinate through this office.

Given the many security, transportation and communication obstacles associated with doing business Iraq, it is important that private initiatives that require official U.S. Government support and coordination for successful completion be vetted carefully before being approved. Most donors, for example, wrongly assume that shipping is readily available for in-kind donations. Toward that end, all private donors should be encouraged to visit the Iraq donations website *before* advancing a proposal for consideration.

The easiest way to access the donations website is to visit the U.S. Embassy, Iraq website (<http://baghdad.usembassy.gov>) and look for the "Donations to Iraq" link. If organizations need to make direct contact with staff at the Office of Private Assistance, they can do so directly through the website. Alternatively, they can contact the office directly at:

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