



UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

January 6, 2004
Weekly Update #13, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

This fact sheet highlights overall accomplishments and some weekly activities from USAID's reconstruction efforts in Iraq. For more information on USAID's programs in Iraq please see: www.usaid.gov/iraq

USAID assists the people of Iraq in reconstructing their country by working within the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA). USAID programs are implemented in coordination with the United Nations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector partners. The USAID Mission in Iraq carries out programs in education, health care, food security, infrastructure reconstruction, airport and seaport management, economic growth, community development initiatives, local governance, and transition initiatives.

Program Descriptions and Updates

1. Restore Essential Infrastructure

Electricity -- *Objectives include the emergency repair or rehabilitation of power generation facilities and electrical grids. Teams of engineers from the Ministry of Electricity, USAID, Bechtel, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the CPA have been working since May to restore capacity to Iraq's power system, which had been looted and was dilapidated from decades of neglect and mismanagement.*

Accomplishments to date:

- Generated 4,518 MW on October 6—surpassing the pre-war level of 4,400 MW.
- Conducting necessary long-term repairs and scheduled maintenance at plants throughout the country to build a sustainable power grid.
- Repairing thermal and gas turbine units—essential components required for stable power generation.
- Rehabilitating Doura power plant. Currently, workers are disassembling turbines, rehabilitating boilers, reworking electrical cables for the new plant control system, upgrading the switchyard, and repairing other auxiliary systems.



Baghdad's Doura power plant. USAID Photo.

Highlights this week:

- Power production peaked at:
 - 3,381 MW on December 22
 - 2,978 MW on December 23
 - 3,477 MW on December 24
 - 3,757 MW on December 25
 - 3,307 MW on December 26

- 3,535 MW on December 27
 - 3,832 MW on December 28
 - 3,579 MW on December 29
 - 3,612 MW on December 30
 - 3,868 MW on December 31
 - 3,710 MW on January 1
- The Baghdad East-Kirkuk 400-kV line, which went out of service on December 23 due to sabotage, was brought back online December 27. One tower had been sabotaged and at least one conductor cut 25 kilometers south of Tuz.
 - The Musalla-Rumaila 132-kV line has been repaired and was re-energized on December 26. Seven towers on the line had been sabotaged since mid-December.
 - As of December 31, 40 generation units with the capacity to produce 1,839 MW of power were offline for either scheduled or unscheduled service.
 - Five generators will be rehabilitated at the Mosul East plant. Work is expected to be completed within a thirty-five day period.

Airports -- *Objectives include: providing reconstruction material and personnel for the timely repair of damaged airport facilities, rehabilitating airport terminals; creating systems to permit humanitarian and commercial flights, and preparing the eventual handover of airport operations to the Iraqi Airport Commission Authority.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- Processing non-military arrivals and departures at Baghdad International Airport.
- Completed emergency infrastructure work to prepare Baghdad International Airport for commercial air operations. Work included:
 - Repairing Terminal C and administration offices.
 - Installing three “Rapidscan” X-ray machines in Terminal C.
 - Installing VSAT communications systems and 6.5-megawatt power generators.
- Completed rehabilitation of Iraqi customs office in Baghdad International Airport arrival hall.
- Substantially prepared Al Basrah International Airport for commercial operations. Ongoing projects include:
 - Repairing runway, taxiway, and apron striping.
 - Installing two baggage x-ray units.
 - Repairing passenger support facilities.
 - Installing VSAT satellite communications.
- Completed evaluation of reconstruction requirements at Mosul Airport.



Baghdad International Airport has been refurbished and repaired with assistance from USAID and CPA.
Photo: Thomas Hartwell

Bridges, Roads, and Railroads -- *Objectives include: rehabilitating and repairing damaged transportation systems, especially the most economically critical networks.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- Demolished irreparable sections of three key bridges (Khazir, Tikrit, and Al Mat) in preparation for reconstruction.
 - Al Mat Bridge: A key link on Highway 10 that carries over 3,000 trucks daily on the main route between Baghdad and Jordan.

- Constructed a 1.5-kilometer, four-lane bypass for the damaged bridge—essential to transporting humanitarian goods.
 - Khazir Bridge: Critical to the flow of fuel and agricultural products to the north.
 - Tikrit Bridge: An important link for passengers and commerce over the Tigris River between Tikrit and Tuz Khurmatu.
- Repaired a floating bridge on the Tigris River in Al Kut, improving traffic for approximately 50,000 travelers a day.
- Integrated work between U.S. and Iraqi teams. The Iraqi Railway Administration contributes equipment and labor, while USAID contributes project management, material, and parts. Work on the railways includes:
 - Repairing 72 km of track in the port of Umm Qasr and between the port and Baghdad to ensure that grain shipments from the seaport to mills are not jeopardized due to faulty track.
 - Continuing disposal of explosive ordinance on the rail line near Shuiaba Junction (Basrah Governorate).

Highlights this week:

- Progress on the Tikrit, Al Mat, and Khazir bridges includes:
 - Tikrit: Workers began removing the bridge bypass January 1. Traffic from the bypass will be diverted to a repaired and reopened side of the bridge.
 - Al Mat: Work on bridge beams and deck is continuing and the south lanes are expected to be open by the last week of January. Completion of the entire project is expected by the end of February.
 - Khazir: The U.S. military will begin removing temporary bridges from the Khazir work site on January 24. One of the two destroyed bridge spans is scheduled to be completed by then, and traffic will be diverted to the reopened side. The bridge is expected to be completed in April.

Umm Qasr Seaport -- *Objectives include: managing port administration, hiring port pilots to guide ships, coordinating onward transport from the seaport, and facilitating cargo-handling services such as warehousing, shipment tracking, and storage.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- Reopened to commercial traffic June 17; completed first passenger vessel test July 16.
- Between May 23 and November 30, 2003, offloaded 638,000 metric tons of cargo at the port.
- Employing 500 Iraqi staff, the majority of which are in the Marine Department of the Port Authority.
- Since September:
 - Processed 151 ships.
 - Unloaded more than 3,200 containers and 278,870 metric tons of rice and sugar.
 - Unloaded 46.5 metric tons of goods from dhows, (smaller port vessels).
- Dredged the port to an average depth of 12.5 meters. Previously, the port was 9-10 meters deep, and limited cargo could arrive only during high tide. All 21 berths are now open to deep-draft ships.
 - An Iraqi dredger, which is being rehabilitated by USAID partner Bechtel, will assist in maintaining the harbor.
- Renovated grain-receiving facility, which can process up to 600 metric tons of grain an hour. Final turnover of the facility to Iraqi authorities is expected at the end of January.
 - The first bulk cargo grain ship arrived at Umm Qasr and finished unloading 52,000 tons of Australian wheat on November 14. The newly refurbished grain-receiving facility moved the grain from the ship to dockside silos without major problems.



Rice being unloaded from a USAID ship at Umm Qasr.

Photo by Jonathan Elliman for Bechtel

- A second grain ship has discharged its load of 52,185 tons of wheat into the grain-receiving facility.
- A third grain ship finished unloading its wheat into the grain facilities in December.
- Applied interim port tariffs on June 20, providing a revenue stream for the financial sustainability of port operations.
- Installed generators, energizing all three 11-kV ring mains and restoring power to most parts of the port.
- Completed security fencing at the old and new ports and grain facility.

Telecommunications -- *Objectives include: installing switches to restore service capability to 230,000 telephone lines in Baghdad area; repairing the nation's fiber optic network from north of Mosul through Baghdad and Nasiriyah to Umm Qasr by March 2004.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- Purchased tools, equipment, and parts to enable Iraqi engineers to restore parts of the network.
- Audited 400 km of the fiber optic backbone, confirming that only two of twelve fibers are active. Supervised repairs to fiber cuts due to accidents and sabotage.
- Installing 12 transportable exchange switches to support 230,000 subscriber lines in Baghdad.
- Officially opened Baghdad's Al Mamoun telephone exchange on December 13. As of December 14, USAID partner Bechtel and the Iraqi Telecommunications and Postal Company had connected 11,500 subscriber lines to the switch. The Ministry of Communications is bringing in additional workers from outside Baghdad to expand the line-splicing workforce and accelerate progress. Al Mamoun is the largest exchange in Iraq, with 30,000 subscribers.
- Training 52 Iraqi Telephone and Postal Company operators and engineers at Al Mamoun through January on telecommunications site operations, maintenance, and repairs.
- Commenced training of Iraqi engineers on the new equipment.

Highlights this week:

- Iraqi Telephone and Postal Company staff continue to conduct splicing and jumpering work at all 12 telecommunications rehabilitation sites. To date, more than 13,500 subscriber cables have been connected at Al Mamoun, with 4,500 subscribers commercially operational. Five thousand subscriber cables have been jumpered at Baya.

Water and Sanitation -- *Objectives include: rehabilitating and repairing essential water infrastructure to provide potable water and sanitation to communities and improve irrigation.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- Repaired hundreds of critical breaks in Iraq's water network immediately after the war, significantly increasing water flow.
- Rehabilitating Baghdad's Sharkh Dijlah water plant (previously named Saba Nissan water plant) to add 225,000 cubic meters a day to the water supply by May 2004—a 40 percent increase in water supply benefiting 640,000 eastern Baghdad residents.
- Rehabilitated 48 compact water treatment plants in An Najaf and Karbala', providing potable water to 100,000 people.
- Completed the restoration of the Safwan water system. All 40,000 residents now have access to potable drinking water.
- Rehabilitating the Sweet Water Canal, which provides drinking water to 1.75 million residents of Basrah City. It had been operating at less than half capacity.
 - The project will renovate the entire system, including the canal, reservoirs, and water treatment plants, restoring operation to full capacity.



Iraqi security guard watches fishermen at a reservoir on the Sweet Water Canal, which supplies all the fresh water to the city of Al Basrah and environs. Photo: Thomas Hartwell.

- Beginning work on Basrah's 14 water treatment plants in January. By summer 2004, water quality and volume will surpass prewar levels.
- Installing back-up electrical generators at 37 Baghdad water facilities and pumping stations to ensure continuous water supply.
- Rehabilitating Baghdad's sewage treatment plants—Old Rustimiyah, Rustimiyah 3, and Kerkh. Currently waste flows untreated directly into the Tigris River. When completed, the plants will be able to treat nearly 800 million liters of wastewater a day, benefiting 3.5 million people by summer 2004.
 - Rehabilitated 70 of Baghdad's 90 non-functioning waste pumping stations.
- Repairing Ad Diwaniyah and Karbala' sewage treatment plants, which serve 200,000 residents and are currently discharging untreated waste into the Euphrates River.
- Rehabilitating An Najaf and Al Hillah sewage treatment plants to serve 194,000 residents.
- Constructing 400 solid waste collection points in Kirkuk (At Tamim Governorate) to improve sanitation.

Highlights this week:

- The Department of Water Resources, USAID, and Bechtel will meet to develop a long-term solution to breaches in the Sweet Water Canal. More breaches are expected to occur due to the overall poor condition of the canal which has resulted from a lack of repair and maintenance.
- Twenty village water networks in An Najaf Governorate have been mapped and are ready for rehabilitation work to begin in January. Workers will construct water tanks, repair water networks, and replace all asbestos piping.
- At Sharkh Dijlah water treatment plant expansion, half of the clarifier pilings have been driven, and workers have begun binding and reinforcing steel for the two clarifiers' concrete base. When completed, the plant will treat 225,000 cubic meters of water a day and will meet the needs of 640,000 Baghdad residents.

2. Support Essential Health and Education

Health -- *Objectives include: supporting a reformed Iraqi Ministry of Health; delivering essential health services; funding medicines and supplemental nutrients; establishing a rapid referral and response system for the most serious cases; providing medical equipment and supplies; training and recruiting health staff; providing health education and information; and determining the specific needs of the health sector and of vulnerable populations such as women and children.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- Procured more than 30 million doses of vaccines since July with support from the Ministry of Health and UNICEF.
- Vaccinated three million children under the age of five. USAID will provide vaccines for 4.2 million children under five and 700,000 pregnant women.
- Continuing a monthly immunization campaign with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health with 4,000 health workers and 124 supervisors.
- Preparing to print 5,000 registry books for immunization recording under a grant to UNICEF. The registry books will be distributed to 1,000 health centers in Iraq.
- Rehabilitated 20 delivery rooms serving more than 300,000 residents of Basrah.
- Developed a hospital and clinic facility database for the Ministry of Health on facility type, location, service distribution, cost information, and building condition.



Iraqi women and children wait to see a doctor at a primary health care center in Baghdad's Al Kharkh district.

Photo: Thomas Hartwell

- Renovated more than 60 primary health clinics and re-equipping over 600 to provide essential primary health care services.
- Distributed high-protein supplementary food rations to more than 100,000 pregnant and nursing mothers and malnourished children under five each month.
- Evaluated 18 national and regional public health laboratories for equipment needs.
- Rehabilitated the National Polio Laboratory.
- Training more than 8,000 health workers to identify and treat acutely malnourished children.
- Working with the Iraqi Ministry of Health to develop a Master Plan that will reduce child mortality and increase the level of preventative care available to the Iraqi people through assistance to their nine working groups which address: public health, health care delivery, health information systems, pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and equipment, health care finance, education and training, human resources, legislation and regulation, licensing and accreditation.
- Conducted the first master training of medical professionals in public health, community medicine, and health care delivery. The master trainers have trained an additional 140 health professionals; the exercise will ultimately branch out to 2,500 medical staff.
- Working with the Ministry of Health to assist in the delegation of functions to other entities in the health sector such as NGOs, professional associations, community organizations, and businesses.



Iraqis receive medicine from a primary health care center in Baghdad's Al Kharkh district.
Photo: Thomas Hartwell

Education -- *Objectives include: increasing enrollment and improving the quality of primary and secondary education, ensuring that classrooms have sufficient materials, facilitating community involvement, training teachers, implementing accelerated learning programs, and establishing partnerships between U.S. and Iraqi colleges and universities.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- Provided technical assistance for the resumption of the Ministry of Education functions.
- Provided assistance for resumption of Ministry salaries.
- Funded 5.5 million examinations for transitional grades, which ensured the smooth continuation of school.
- Created education coordination groups for north, south, and central Iraq.
- Conducted a survey of secondary schools in all permissive areas in the country (3,300 schools total).
- Rehabilitated 2,133 schools for the first term of school year 2003-04.
- Awarded 395 grants worth \$5,356,217 to rehabilitate schools and education Directorate General Offices countrywide.
- Provided materials, equipment and supplies:
 - Distributed 1,195,281 secondary school kits that include pens, pencils, paper, math equipment, and other supplies.
 - Distributed 142,762 student desks, 20,755 teacher desks, 52,055 teacher chairs, 17,059 metal cabinets and 58,000 chalkboards.
 - Delivered 808,000 primary student kits.
 - Delivered 81,735 primary teacher kits.
- Reviewed 48 math and science textbooks for grades 1-12.
- Of a planned 5.5 million textbooks being printed, 68 percent have been delivered to Baghdad Directorates General and 87 percent to remaining governorates countrywide.

- Trained 706 secondary school Master Trainers from Baghdad, Dahuk, Ninawa', Arbil, As Sulaymaniyah, Salah Ad Din, Diyala', At Tamim, Al Anbar, Karbala', An Najaf, Babil, Dhi Qar, Al Muthanna, and Al Qadisiyah since September.
- Training of 33,000 secondary school teachers and 3,000 secondary school administration staff should be completed before the next school year.



A student from the Zein Al Abdeen secondary boys' school in the Amil district of Baghdad receives his new school bag, which contains, pens, pencils, notebooks, a calculator, and other school supplies.
Photo: Thomas Hartwell.

- Began Accelerated Learning program in Baghdad, Nasiriyah, Ad Diwaniyah, and Karbala' on November 15 and in Arbil on November 22. Of the 680 students registered, 595 are attending the program, 54 percent are boys and 46 percent are girls.
- Established baseline education statistic for Iraq.
- Returning the Fulbright Scholarship Program to Iraq after a 14-year absence. The program will award at least 20 scholarships for Iraqis to study in the United States in 2004. USAID participated in the bi-national review committee for Iraq.
- Employing 1,565 Iraqis for education project work around the country.
- Launched Higher Education and Development (HEAD) Program. Awarded five grants worth an estimated \$15 million for U.S.-Iraqi university partnerships: 1) a consortium led by Research Foundation of the State University of New York at Stony Brook partnering with Baghdad University, Al Mustansiriyah University/Baghdad, and Mosul University in archeology and environmental research; 2) the University of Hawaii College of Agriculture and Human Resources partnering with the University of Mosul Hamam Al-Alil for strengthening academic, research, and extension programs; 3) the Human Rights Institute at DePaul University College of Law and the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences (Italy) partnering with University of Baghdad to reform legal education; 4) Jackson State University partnering with University of Mosul for public health and sanitation; and 5) the University of Oklahoma partnering with Al Anbar University, Basrah University, and the University of Salah ad Din in higher education initiatives.

- With the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, purchasing 8,000 student desks for classrooms in three universities in southern Iraq. The desks will be assembled and delivered by February 2004. The \$200,000 grant to the Ministry complements the five partnership grants made by USAID under the HEAD program.

3. Expand Economic Opportunity

Economic Growth -- *Objectives include: currency conversion and monetary data, small businesses credits, commercial legislation, a national employment program, a bank-to-bank payment system, a financial management information system, tax policy and administration, budget planning, insurance, and electricity reform.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- Began facilitating the Central Bank program to exchange new dinars for old on October 15, 2003. The program will be completed by January 2004, unifying and strengthening Iraq's currency, a critical component of sustained economic growth.

- Monetary authorities now influence the exchange by conducting a daily auction in which banks exchange Iraqi dinars and U.S. dollars.
- Currently, 5.8 trillion new Iraqi dinars—90 percent of the total of 6.3 trillion—are in country, and 4.2 trillion—96 percent of the total goal of 4.36 trillion—are in circulation
- More than 3,000 tons of old currency—a third of the 9,000 tons that exist—have been destroyed.
- Assisted the Central Bank in procuring and managing a bank-to-bank payment system that allows them to conduct transactions and other business. Eighty branches were part of the system by late October. Basic training was also provided to bank staff.
- Assisting CPA in managing a microcredit program that helps banks to strengthen their credit underwriting capacity and increase lending to small and medium-sized enterprises. Two state-owned banks and seven private sector banks have been recommended for the program.
- Providing a consultant to CPA to assist them in efforts to expand Iraqi employment. More than 75,000 jobs have been created through the CPA-funded National Employment Program, a pilot public works program that intends eventually to generate at least 100,000 temporary Iraqi jobs.
- Reforming and updating commercial laws that will encourage private sector participation, including foreign investment.



An employee of the Central Bank shows computers awaiting installation in the basement of the building. The computers are part of a USAID-funded "ministry in a box" program.
Photo: Thomas Hartwell

Highlights this week:

- Twenty-five thousand copies of a registration application for large importers and NGOs have been printed for the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to facilitate customs processing and collection of the reconstruction levy. The guidebook, which was finalized December 23, is part of a taxpayer education effort and describes how the reconstruction levy works and what is required of importers.
- Al Amarah Souk, a shopping center in Maysan Governorate that is home to more than 110 shops, will be renovated by a joint effort among the Al Amarah Chamber of Commerce, the Directorate of Municipalities, the Department of Electricity, and USAID's Local Governance Program. The work will improve the sewage system, remove trash, rehabilitate electrical wiring and lighting, and repair foundations and sidewalks.

Food Security -- *Objectives include: providing oversight support for the countrywide public distribution system, which provides basic food and non-food commodities to 25 million Iraqis; participating in the design of a monetary assistance program to replace the commodity-based distribution system in order to support local production and free-market infrastructure; and promoting comprehensive agriculture reform to optimize private participation in production and wholesale markets.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- Worked with the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and Coalition Forces to re-establish Iraq's public distribution system in less than 30 days, avoiding a humanitarian food crisis and maintaining food security throughout the country.
- Placed food specialists in Baghdad, Basrah, Al Hillah, and Arbil to support food operations immediately after the conflict. USAID continues to provide support in Baghdad for ongoing operations with the CPA and the Ministry of Trade during the transition of public distribution system responsibilities.

- Provided \$425 million in food and cash to WFP to continue food operations through December 2003. Additional WFP involvement is sought through June 2004.
- Providing ongoing support and technical assistance to WFP and local Iraqi authorities in the Ministry of Trade and the Kurdish Food Departments to ensure the smooth transition of public distribution system management tasks to the Iraqi government. Special attention is being paid to the transition in the northern governorates of Dahuk, Sulaymanyah, and Arbil. The initial handover of responsibilities occurred on November 21 without significant problems.
- Coordinating agriculture production and marketing through the public distribution system.
- Awarded the contract for Agriculture Reconstruction and Development in Iraq (ARDI) to DAI on October 17.
 - In December 2003-February 2004, USAID will focus on quick-impact activities to stimulate agricultural production: rehabilitating agriculture colleges, revitalizing the poultry industry, procuring and distributing veterinary medicines, demonstrating crop technology, and rehabilitating veterinary clinics.
- Coordinating the \$4-million Marshlands Initiative, which will create a river basin and hydraulic model of the marshes and include the following field activities: equipping a soil and water lab for the Ministry of Water Resources, designing pilot projects for waste management and drinking water, and developing activities in fisheries, aquaculture, and livestock, particularly water buffalo.



Marsh Arabs in Southern Iraq will benefit from the Marshlands Initiative, which aims to rejuvenate the Marshlands ecologically, socially and economically. USAID Photo.

Highlights this week:

- A multinational, multidisciplinary team will travel to southern Iraq in January to design concrete first steps in the Marshlands Restoration program, an effort to restore Iraq's wetland ecosystem and provide social and economic assistance to marsh dwellers.
 - Pilot projects to improve the local environment will focus on improving the quality of drinking water and sewage treatment.
 - Economic assistance projects will focus on livestock and dairy production, fishing and aquaculture, agribusiness, and healthcare. Current USAID-funded governance, health, education, and community projects will also benefit marsh dwellers.

4. Improve Efficiency and Accountability of Government

Local Government -- *Objectives include: promoting diverse and representative citizen participation within and among communities throughout Iraq; strengthening the management skills and capacity of local administrations, local interim representative bodies, and civic institutions to improve the delivery of essential municipal services; promoting effective advocacy and participation of civil society organizations; and enhancing leadership skills.*

Accomplishments to Date:

- Established the local governance program in 18 governorates. More than 19 million people are engaging in local policy discourse through local government entities and civil society organizations to:
 - Enhance transparency and participation in local decision-making processes.
 - Restore basic services.
 - Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of local service delivery,
 - Establish, develop, and expand the number of civil society organizations that can interact with local government entities.
- Established an interim structure of government, the Governorate Council, to represent the population of 13 governorates, including Baghdad. Additional local entities that have been established include 25 city

councils, 33 district councils, 36 subdistrict councils, and 224 neighborhood councils. Ninety percent of all districts in Iraq are represented.

- Awarded more than 1,060 grants to local government agencies totaling \$50 million to restore basic services.
- Established the Iraqi Women in Local Governance Group in response to the challenge of women's gross under-representation in political processes across Iraq. The group will develop and guide program activities in order to expand women's participation at all levels.
- Awarded two grants worth \$475,000 to the Ministry of Human Rights for the rehabilitation of buildings to house the National Evidence Storage Facility (NESF). The NESF will serve as a venue to analyze recovered documents and store forensic evidence of mass graves and human rights abuses of the Ba'ath government. The facility is part of a larger effort to help build Iraq's capacity to investigate complex crimes and implement international law enforcement best practices.
- Working with local governance service departments to plan, budget, and manage their resources, and providing training on transparency and accountability in the use of those resources. The team's work with officials in Dhi Qar resulted in more efficient delivery of public services to over 390,000 residents.
- Employing 868 Iraqi workers, of which more than half are senior and mid-level professionals.

Highlights this week:

- More than 500 community members, including more than 100 women, participated in neighborhood council selection throughout Babil Governorate at the end of December.
- On December 23, fifty women representing all areas of Baghdad attended a discussion on Iraq's past policies on women and the population's views on their political participation. Several men were also present, leading to an open discussion on unequal employment opportunities and gender issues in the political and educational systems. The discussion was the third in a series of panels on women's issues; the next will be held on January 13 and will address women, law, and society.
- Several Karbala' city officials and NGO representatives attended a televised one-hour session on the people's role in the decision-making process for the future of Iraq.
- Mejjed subdistrict in Al Muthanna' Governorate selected a seven-member council on December 21 using a caucus-based system. During the selection, which was attended by 87 of the 100 caucus members, there were 30 candidates for the seven positions.
- Thirteen neighborhoods in Ad Diwaniyah (Al Qadisiyah Governorate) held selections for 11-member neighborhood councils December 21-23.
- Five Iraqi civil society organizations attended four workshops in Kirkuk last week on planning civic education initiatives in At Tamim Governorate. The organizations were also given information on the November 15 announcement that the CPA would transfer authority to the Transitional National Assembly on June 30. The five organizations will begin conducting civic education activities in mid-January.



Mokhtars from Abu Ghrayek, one of 15 subdistricts of the Babil Governorate, listen to the basics of democracy and the selection process that will allow delegates to select 20 members from their communities to a new district council.

Photo: Thomas Hartwell

Community Action Program -- Objectives include promoting diverse, representative citizen participation in and among communities to identify, prioritize, and satisfy critical community needs. CAP is implemented by five U.S. NGOs with offices in nine major Iraqi cities. Each concentrates on one region in Iraq: ACDI/VOCA (North), International Relief and Development--IRD (Baghdad), Cooperative Housing Foundation International--CHF (Southwest Central), Mercy Corps (Southeast Central), and Save the Children (South).

Accomplishments to Date:

- Established 383 Community Action Groups of 400 targeted in 16 governorates. The projects undertaken by the Community Action Groups are part of a campaign targeting grassroots democratic development.
 - CAP has committed \$32.8 million for 1,114 community projects across Iraq; 457 projects have already been completed.
 - Iraqi communities have contributed \$9.8 million—a quarter of the total project funding—to community projects. Contributions have included labor, land, buildings, and other in-kind assistance.
 - CHF International has completed 64 projects in 54 communities (29 in Babil, 34 in Karbala', and 3 in An Najaf) for a total value of \$2,969,680. Twenty-six CHF projects worth \$1,806,424 are being implemented and another 28 projects worth \$1,451,900 are being developed.
 - ACDI/VOCA has committed \$2.8 million to 196 projects and has already completed 103 projects, including rehabilitating a youth center in Al Riyadh and repairing trash vehicles in Kirkuk.
 - IRD has committed \$8.4 million to 279 projects and has already completed 110 projects. A marketplace that will serve 250,000 residents is being constructed, and crews are cleaning up medical waste dumps and educating medical personnel on proper disposal methods.
 - Mercy Corps has committed \$7.6 million to 167 projects in Wasit, Al Qadisiyah, and Maysan, including water, hospital, and school renovation; 24 projects have been completed.
 - Save the Children has committed \$6.8 million to 354 community projects in Al Basrah, Al Muthanna', and Dhi Qar; 167 projects have already been completed and are focused primarily on immediate community needs such as sewage clean up, water treatment and distribution, health, and girls' access to education.

Highlights this week:

- A Community Action Group in Ad Diwaniyah (Al Qadisiyah Governorate) will work with Mercy Corps to rehabilitate the city's Al Hakim library, a cultural center and social venue for the community since 1961. In 1991, the former regime closed the library and burned its contents. For the rehabilitation, the community agreed to contribute machinery and wages and meals for the laborers. Mercy Corps is managing the rehabilitation and will provide books and computers.

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2003-2004*				
RECONSTRUCTION				
USAID/ANE				Subtotal: \$1,587,249,660
	Abt Associates	Health	Countrywide	\$20,995,000
	AFCAP	Logistics	Countrywide	\$91,500,000
	Army Corps of Engineers	Architecture and Engineering services	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
	BearingPoint	Economic Governance	Countrywide	\$47,500,000
	Bechtel National	Airports, buildings, emergency communications, power, railroads, roads and bridges, Umm Qasr seaport, water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$1,029,833,859
	Community Action Program	Development in impoverished communities	Countrywide	\$70,000,000
	DAI	Marshlands	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
	DAI	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
	Fed Source	Personnel Support	Countrywide	\$163,572
	IRG	Reconstruction Support	Countrywide	\$25,786,094
	RTI	Local Governance	Countrywide	\$113,611,000
	CAII	Education	Countrywide	\$47,053,000
	UNICEF	Health, Water, and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$36,700,000
	UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$7,000,000
	UNESCO	Textbook Printing and Distribution: Math and Science	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
	WHO	Strengthen Health System	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
	SSA	Port Management	Umm Qasr	\$14,318,985
	SkyLink	Airport Management	Baghdad Al Basrah Mosul	\$17,500,000
	MSI	Monitoring and Evaluation	Countrywide	\$5,500,000
	University Partners	Consortium led by the Research Foundation of the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook which includes Columbia University, Boston University and Oxford University (England), University of Hawaii, DePaul University College of Law and the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences in Siracusa, Italy; and Jackson State University and the Mississippi Consortium for International Development; and Oklahoma State University.	Baghdad University, Al Mustansiriyah University in Baghdad, Mosul University, Mosul University's College of Agriculture and Forestry in Hamam al-Alil, Basrah University, Al-Anbar University, and University of Salahaddin.	\$20,730,000
	Yankee Group	Telecoms Planning	Countrywide	\$58,150

EMERGENCY RELIEF				
USAID/OFDA				\$82,398,040
	Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$6,838,947
	AirServ	Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,309,876
	ARC	Capacity building, Disaster support	Al Basrah	\$537,746
	The Cuny Center	Research studies	Countrywide	\$40,260
	GOAL	Coordination, Nutrition	Al Muthanna'	\$1,507,900
	International Dispensary Association	Health	Countrywide	\$1,284,972
	InterAction	Coordination	Kuwait City	\$92,860
	IOM	IDP programs	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
	Logistics	Commodities and DART support	Countrywide	\$12,005,804
	UNICEF	Health, nutrition, water/sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
	UN OCHA	Coordination and Information	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
	USAID Amman	Support for emergency water activities	Countrywide	\$500,000
	WFP	Logistics and pre-positioning of food	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
	IMC	Food Security, Health, Nutrition, Water/Sanitation, Capacity building	Countrywide	\$8,202,900
	IRC	Health, Water/Sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,998,685
	Mercy Corps	Health, Non-Food Items, Shelter, Water/Sanitation	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
	SCF/US	Food Security, Health, Shelter, Nutrition, Non-Food Items, Water/Sanitation, NGO Consortium	Countrywide	\$6,883,131
	World Vision	Health, Logistics, Non-Food Items, Water/Sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,994,959
	CARE	Quick-impact projects, Water/Sanitation, Health, Blankets	Countrywide	\$9,000,000
USAID/FFP				\$425,571,000
	WFP	Operations	Countrywide	\$45,000,000
	WFP	Emerson Trust – 81,500 MT	Countrywide	\$40,337,000
	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities – 163,820 MT	Countrywide	\$140,234,000
	WFP	Regional Purchase – 330,000 MT	Countrywide	\$200,000,000
STATE/PRM				\$38,935,691
	UNHCR	Emergency assistance	Countrywide	\$21,000,000
	ICRC	Emergency assistance	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
	IFRC	Emergency assistance	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
	IOM	TCN – transportation assistance	Countrywide	\$3,630,000
	International Catholic Migration Commission	Humanitarian assistance to Iraqi refugees	Lebanon and Jordan	\$1,305,691
USAID/OTI.....				\$72,203,934
	Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$2,910,664
	IOM	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$10,587,595
	DAI	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$48,000,000
	Internews	Media	Countrywide	\$160,359
	Radio SAWA	Media	Countrywide	\$400,000

	NDI/IRI	National Governance	Countrywide	\$400,000
	IFES	National Governance	Countrywide	\$1,042,315
	Spa War	Inter-Ministry Communications	Countrywide	\$8,703,001**
TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ IN FY 2003/2004				\$2,167,422,634
TOTAL STATE ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ IN FY 2003				\$38,935,691
Total STATE/USAID Assistance to Iraq in FY 2003/2004				\$2,206,358,325

* Figures in funding sheet are subject to change and do not represent a final official accounting of USG obligations.

** For accounting purposes, funding for this activity has been obligated by OFDA under an existing interagency agreement.