



Iraq Reconstruction Report

Focusing on Construction & Sustainment

03.20.07



Iraqi Engineers Learn New Skills



Peggy McBride, a quality assurance specialist, teaches a four-day course in construction quality management to Iraqi engineers. The course enhances job skills to achieve a quality product—safely, on time and within budget. (Army Corps of Engineers Photo)

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Helping Residents with a Variety of Projects



Soldiers (left photo) unload lumber in the village of al Angur. Some families will use the wood for heat and cooking, while others will use it for construction projects. Maj. Brian Melton (right bottom photo), listens to local villagers. The mayor of Habbaniyah, Hussein Ali Hussein (right top photo), takes notes during a visit to a school. (Photo by Sandra Jontz)

Gulf Region Division Project Dispatches

Water Project Update...Completed GRD water treatment projects have added over 449,200 m3 of daily water treatment capacity, which potentially benefits 2.2 million Iraqis. At the end of the program, an additional 1,136,000 m3 of water treatment capacity will benefit approximately 5.2 million Iraqis (and all USG agencies' projects will benefit 8.4 million Iraqis).

Distribution Network Complete...Construction on the 400kV Sadr local distribution network sectors 1-8 in Baghdad was completed on March 8. This project will benefit an estimated 120,000 people.

Electrical Generation Update...Completed generation projects have provided an additional 1,420MW of potential generation capacity to Iraq's national grid. At the end of the program, GRD projects will have added 1,879 MW of potential generation capacity, which can serve an estimated 1.7 million homes. All USG agencies' projects will add or restore a total of 2,555MW at the end of the program.

School Renovations Benefit 350,000...GRD has completed 99 percent of planned school renovations. Under the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund, 808 school renovations have been completed to date and one is under construction. These projects will provide improved school facilities for over 325,000 students.

Sadr City Project Nearly Complete...The \$13.2 million Sadr City R3 Water Treatment Plant has an estimated July completion date. It is currently 89% complete. Current challenges include completing the raw water tie-in and the electrical power connection. The contractor plans to coordinate the raw water tie-in with the Baghdad Water Authority and complete integrity testing on electrical cables for power and the automated control system.

Fire Station Roads Completed...A fire station road project in Baghdad, 9 Nisan has been completed. The project paved three roads for fire department vehicles. Approximately 42,000 local Iraqi residents benefit from quicker response in all weather conditions by first responders from the Zayona, Sadr City, and Kamaliyah fire stations.



Iraq 101 — Knowledge Brief

Imports: \$20.76 billion (2006)

Imports - commodities: food, medicine, manufactures

Imports - partners: Turkey 23.4%, Syria 23.1%, US 11.7%, Jordan 6.3% (2005)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold: \$15.65 billion (2006)

Umm Qasr Substation Provides Reliable Power Supply

Story & Photo by A. Al Bahrani
Gulf Region South District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BASRAH, Iraq — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recently turned over a 132 kilovolt electrical substation at the Port of Umm Qsar to the Iraqi government's Minister of Electricity. The \$13.8 million project will provide electricity to the port, as well as to area homes and businesses.

"The main function of the project is to take the pressure off of the existing over-burdened substations and provide a more even distribution within the region," said Natalie J. Sudman, a project engineer. "This allows the local electrical distribution directorate the opportunity to supply more electricity to the Umm Qsar port facility and the town itself."



Transformers at the 132 kv substation at the Port of Umm Qsar.

Russell Holeman, chief of Engineering and Construction for the Gulf Region South District, said "This substation is one of the key components germane to improving electrical systems in the region. When combined with projects at the power plants and projects to restore the overhead distribution lines, the Umm Qsar substation will improve the distribution of power to the region." He added that having a reliable source of power is necessary to ensure efficient operation at Umm Qsar's port facilities.

According to Holeman, the completion of the project not only improves the electrical distribution network in the province by reducing the load of the already overburdened substations, it also increases the power supplies with less down time and provides additional power distribution capacity for the region.

Currently, USACE is working on more than 60 projects in Basrah Province. These include upgrading the electrical distribution systems, providing water treatment units, improving roadways, and building new primary healthcare centers and the Basrah Children's Hospital.

Iraqi Women's Association Receives Grant Funding

By Sheryl Lewis
Director
Capacity Development ASA(ALT)

WASHINGTON — The Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) has been working in Iraq since late 2003 to help business leaders and other civil society groups build a foundation for economic development and democratic stability. As part of this effort, CIPE is supporting the development of local business associations through the provision of small grants.



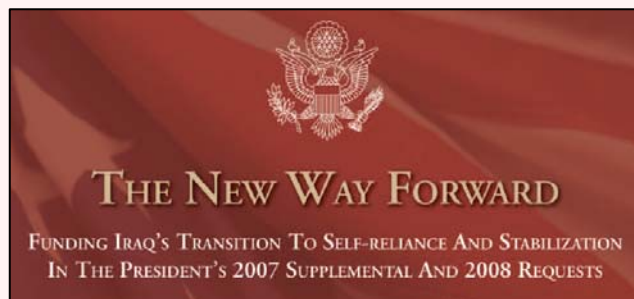
Azza Humadi, Gulf Region Division Program Manager for the Women's Advocacy Initiative, and a member of the Iraqi Business Women's Union attend the graduation event.

As of January 2007, CIPE has provided small grants totaling over \$1,000,000 to 30 business associations throughout Iraq. These grants provide needed funding for local Iraqi associations to begin providing programs to their members on public policy advocacy, firm services, and management training.

With the assistance of Azza Humadi, the Gulf Region Division's Women's Advocate Initiative Program Manager and CIPE, the Iraqi Business Women's Union was able to receive a grant to provide computer training for 36 women. A graduation ceremony was held at the Provincial Council in Karada for the women on March 17th. As a result of the computer training, a number of the Iraqi women were able to find employment.

About CIPE: <http://www.cipe.org/>

New State Department Publication Available Online: "The New Way Forward"



Read the document: www.state.gov/documents/organization/81600.pdf

Iraq Reconstruction Report

Sector Overview: Current Status – Final Effects

Compiled By: John Daley, Emily LaMarsh, PCO Washington

As of: March 19, 2007

•Over \$10.7 billion of the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) has been disbursed by DoD, representing 79.1% of total funds allocated to DoD

•3,426 projects starts (out of 3,481 planned projects) and 2,906 projects are complete. This number includes the DoD projects funded by the IRRF and the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI).

Infrastructure Sector	Current Progress	Final Effects
Electricity	1,420 MW capacity added* Increased power generation to 1.3 million homes* Improved Electricity Distribution to approximately 372K Homes* Hours of Power: Iraq - 10, Baghdad – 5.7 (last week average)	1,879 MW capacity added* (2,555 for all USG projects) Increased power generation to 1.7 million homes* Improved Electricity Distribution to approximately 822K Homes* Hours of Power: 10-12 Iraqi, 10-12 Baghdad
Oil	2.5 Million Barrels Per Day (MBPD) production capacity Approximately 2.15 MBPD actual production Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) production capacity of 1,200 Tons per Day	3.0 MBPD oil production capacity LPG production capacity production capacity of 3,000 Tons per Day
Water & Sewer	Added 441,300 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity (benefits an estimated 2.3 million Iraqis)*	1,136,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity (will benefit approximately 5.2 million Iraqis*. All USG projects will benefit 8.4 million Iraqis)
Health	21 IRRF-funded Primary Healthcare Centers (PHC) completed Remaining 120 PHCs under contract. 16 IRRF-funded hospitals rehabilitation projects completed	141 PHCs serving a population of 5 to 6.5 million Iraqis 25 IRRF-funded hospital rehabilitation projects
Education	809 IRRF-funded schools providing classrooms for 323,200 students*	811 IRRF-funded schools providing classrooms for 324,000 students*
Security & Justice	3 Training Academy Projects 93 Fire Station Projects 267 Border Forts	5 Training Academy Projects 97 Fire Station Projects 267 Border Forts
Transportation & Communications	53 IRRF-Village Road Projects (281 km) 92 Railway Station Renovations 14 IRRF Aviation Projects Provided emergency response dispatch system ('911' service) covering 12 million Iraqis in 15 cities	94 IRRF-Village Road Projects (427km) 98 Railway Station Renovations 19 IRRF Aviation Projects

Iraq Reconstruction Report

USDA Awards \$5.3M for Extension Revitalization

Submitted by USDA Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced that a team of U.S. universities will receive \$5.3 million to strengthen agricultural extension and training at Iraqi universities. "We believe that restoring Iraq's agricultural sector will contribute to overall stability in the country - and the extension system is a tremendous tool to help us achieve this goal," said Johanns.



"I am very pleased to follow through on the commitment that this Administration made when I visited Iraq. We can all be proud that our universities have so much to offer around the world." Texas

Cooperative Extension at Texas A&M University will lead a team that includes four other universities: Washington State University, Utah State University, University of California at Davis, and New Mexico State University. The partners also plan to involve Prairie View A&M University and Dine College.

The partnering Iraqi universities will be selected in the coming months and will include universities in all parts of Iraq. The Iraq Agricultural Extension Revitalization Project (IAER) was announced on August 1 when Johanns and Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Salamm Zukam Ali Al-Zawba'i signed a joint statement of intent in Baghdad. Iraq's agricultural sector is the second largest contributor to the national economy and employs one-quarter of its workforce.

In addition to the \$5.3 million grant, another \$2.5 million is designated for USDA staff, stationed in Iraq and Washington, who will be supporting this project. The project will provide training programs for Iraqi nationals to enhance the management, production and marketing related to small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises. The project will address arid crop production development, livestock production and animal health, and water resources management and irrigation technology. Priority activities will include training of extension specialists; long-term degree training; development of distance learning methods and instructional materials for train-the-trainer extension programs; and field trials, demonstration plots and lab methods for adoption by Iraqi farmers.

In addition to this project, USDA is increasing the number of staff assigned to Iraq. Two agricultural officers will continue to work at the American Embassy in Baghdad. Additionally, three technical advisers will work with the Iraqi Government. The goal for these initiatives is to help Iraq develop strategies to rebuild and revitalize its agricultural and agribusiness sector.

Youth Project Teaches Defense of Rights

The Youth Activity Development Center (YADC), a grantee of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), had its project featured on the front page of the *Senter* newspaper. An independent non-profit organization, YADC has 16 branches throughout northern Iraq and organizes various workshops and courses on language, computer and culture to help with positive youth development.



Titled "Awakening the Young of their Rights and Obligations", its NDI-supported project aims at preparing youth groups to defend their rights and the rights of their community. NDI is a non-profit, non-partisan organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. About NDI: <http://www.ndi.org/>

Teachers' Institute Opens in Rasheed



Sabeeh Al Ka'abi, the head of the Al Rasheed District Action Council, cuts the ribbon to open the Mutanabi Teachers' Institute in Southeast Rasheed. The institute was opened at the Netaaken School, a school for girls, ages 12 through 19. (Photo by Pfc. Nathaniel Smith)

Iraq Reconstruction Report

UN Hosts Conference on Iraq Rebuilding

Story Submitted by UN New Center

NEW YORK — Nearly 100 delegations from Member States, humanitarian agencies and regional organizations gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York for a long-term initiative for Iraq that aims to consolidate peace and pursue political, economic and social development over the next five years.



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addresses the conference. (UN Photo)

It was the first time that the International Compact with Iraq, a joint UN-Iraqi Government plan, has met in New York since it was initiated last July, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today called it “a tool for unlocking Iraq’s own potential” in public sector resource management, institution building and human development, and in achieving a more holistic approach to energy management.

“The challenges ahead are immense. I am sure you will all agree that we cannot leave Iraq on its own to cope with themselves. The International Compact is intended to help the Government to build a secure, unified, federal and democratic nation, founded on the principles of freedom and equality, capable of providing peace and prosperity for all its people,” said the Secretary-General.

The session was technically a preparatory meeting prior to the formal launch, building on previous meetings in the region, and Ban urged the Iraqi Government to agree on the date and venue for this launch.

The Iraqi delegation, led by Vice President Adil Abdul Mahdi, formally presented the Compact document, committing the Government to a slew of benchmarks from fighting corruption and ensuring human rights to taking concrete security steps and instituting economic reform.

Mahadi said the formal launch would take place by the end of April.

“We had a very successful conference,” Mahdi told reporters, adding that the conference heard “a very important engagement” from the international community and recognized that Iraq had validated its commitment.

“We are looking forward to taking Iraq out of its crisis with the help of the international community,” he added.

International organizations attending included the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Arab League and the European Commission.

Scholarship Program Launched

Provided by USAID Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — To help strengthen Iraq’s civil service corps, Tatweer, the USAID-funded program for national capacity development, will award up to 75 scholarships for Masters or certificate-level studies in public management.

Scholarship recipients receive full tuition, housing and a cost-of-living stipend. In return, they must agree to complete four years of service in the Iraqi government through placement services by the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation.

According to one scholarship winner, “This is an exciting and unique opportunity for all of us. A year ago, we would not have imagined this was in our future.”



As Tatweer targets civil servants, the application process now allows 10 key ministries to nominate up to 15 candidates each. Iraqis from the private sector and beyond are also eligible and encouraged to apply. Following the application period, candidates are subject to a rigorous selection process that includes personal one-on-one interviews as well interviews with bi-national technical and selection committees, each comprised of four Iraqis and four Americans.

To ensure a diverse pool of candidates representing Iraq’s geographic and ethnic mosaic, the Tatweer team is reaching out to Iraqis nationwide through the ministries, Provincial Reconstruction Teams, and the Prime Minister’s Office and Council of Ministers. Radio, television and print advertising have also been used to promote the scholarship program.

New with the second round, which began in early February 2007 and is expected to conclude by the end of March, the program has been expanded to give scholarship recipients more choice about where to study.

The Tatweer training focus includes:

- **Leadership and Communications**
- **Strategic Planning and Policy Development**
- **Fiscal Management**
- **Personnel Management and Administration**
- **Information Technology**

In addition to the American University in Cairo, scholarship winners can now choose from other universities within the region or in the United States. Tatweer is also working to identify regional institutions that offer Arabic language programs in Public Management. This would ensure that qualified candidates who lack English language skills can also take advantage of an invaluable opportunity to enhance their skills and contribute to the development of Iraq.

For more information on Tatweer, visit: www.tatweer-iraq

Breaking New Ground



Minister of Defense, Abdul Qadir Muhammed Jasim, lays the foundation stone and signs documentation during the official ground breaking ceremony for the MOD Iraqi Civil Service Staff Development Center. The new facility will provide support for the development of the MOD civilian cadre. (Photo Staff Sgt. Kimberly A. Green)

An Italian Grant for Canning Dates

Provided by IRAQdirectory.com



The Iraq Directory website reports that a factory for canning dates will soon be opened in Sudainawiyeh, southwest of Nasiriyah, with a grant offered by the University of Florence.

The factory consists of four machines for squeezing dates, a machine to vaccinate and control agricultural pests that afflict palm-trees, a machine to harvest dates, and three units for storing and washing. The factory is also has a solar cell system for water heating as well as a large generator.

The Italian university last year trained Iraqi members from the Agricultural Department and the Marshes Research Center in Thi Qar.

Soldiers Cleaning Up Iraq's Roads



Soldiers from 1st Platoon, 131st Engineer Company, 875th Engineer Battalion, Arkansas Army National Guard, use their equipment to clean up roads south of Baghdad, Iraq. (Photo 1/34 Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)

Iraqi Planning Minister Courts Arab-American Investment

By David Shelby
USINFO Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Iraqi Planning Minister Ali Baban urged Arab-American business leaders to seek economic opportunities in Iraq and said his government is working to make the country a stable environment for investment.

"Any commercial or economic operation depends on stability, and this is the focus of the Iraqi Government right now," Baban told members of the National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce in Washington. The minister expressed optimism that the Iraqi people would overcome the difficult security challenges they currently face. "I think the Iraqis' will to live is stronger than the terrorists' will to die," he said, drawing a vigorous round of applause from the audience.

Baban said the Arab-American business community could be a strong bridge between the two countries and could transform their relations. "At a time where there is great debate within the United States about its military presence in Iraq, I believe human and commercial relations can replace the military presence," he said.

He said Arab Americans' success in the United States proves that Arab businessmen can prosper if the environment allows, and he said the Iraqi Government is working hard to create such an environment in Iraq.

The minister hailed Iraq's new oil law, saying it would promote national reconciliation, which he called the key to progress in Iraq. "For us, national reconciliation is strategic, and I think the oil law will play a great role in this," he said. "This law means that the oil revenues will be distributed to all Iraqis on a per capita basis and no other criteria."

World Health Organization Pamphlet Download: **Community-Based Initiative Program in Iraq**

Health and development are vital to security and quality of life. Community-Based Initiatives are local level actions to empower people and promote self reliance. A CBI program helps to strengthen primary health care services, improve water supply and sanitation, improve life skills, and assist in poverty reduction.



View the WHO pamphlet:
http://www.emro.who.int/iraq/pdf/CBI_English.pdf

Iraq's Agriculture Bounces Back after Years of Neglect

By Polli Barnes Keller
Gulf Region North District

TIKRIT, Iraq — After decades of strain, the Ministry of Agriculture in the Ninewa Province reported a significant increase in the wheat crop yield for 2006.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently working with the Government of Iraq to help restore the grain marketing infrastructure by renovating two granaries in the Ninewa Province. With the increase in wheat production, having a place to store the crop is vital.

Once considered the second largest value sector in the country, agriculture in northern Iraq took a dramatic downfall during the years of the Saddam Hussein regime.

The renovation of these two facilities at a combined cost of approximately \$2 million will provide a reliable source for the processing, storage and distribution of various grain crops, which is needed to restore agriculture productivity.

"The Sinjar and Tal Afar granary renovation projects are beneficial to those farmers in the Ninewa Province and Iraq's agricultural industry," said Maj. Vincent Navarre, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers resident engineer for the Mosul resident office.

Wheat is a fundamental staple crop in the Middle East. According to USAID reports, Iraqis consume nearly four million tons of wheat annually, yet only produce 500,000 tons of milling-quality wheat. More than 85 percent of the wheat consumed is imported, adding to the country's economic burden.

These two state-owned grain silos feed into the public distribution system's flour requirements; the more grain the government can store, the less they have to import, thus easing the economic burden.

U.S. Navy Lt. Shane Stoughton, the Agricultural Team leader for the Ninewa Provincial Reconstruction Team explains, "Increasing the capacity of the granaries as a post-production grain marketing outlet benefits the citizens of northern Iraq and improves the macroeconomic situation of the country as a whole. These projects also raise the demand for grain, which in turn drives the production agriculture sector to achieve greater efficiency and output."

Video Takes you to the Project Location



Courthouse Expansion

Run Time: 1:17

See the Video:



<http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/video/playvideo.asp?ReleaseID=47>

Locals Helping Troops Find Weapons

Story by Fred W. Baker III
American Forces Press Service

BAGHDAD — Iraqis in the country's north, fed up with ongoing violence, are leading U.S. and Iraqi forces to some of the largest weapons and bombs caches found in the region to date, the commander of Multi-National Division-North told Pentagon reporters Friday.

This comes as U.S. troops in that area are handing off most counterinsurgency missions to Iraqi forces. This allows U.S. forces to focus on killing or capturing those who finance, make and emplace IEDs, said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commander of MND-N and the 25th Infantry Division.



An Iraqi soldier clears an illegal weapon found during the search of a home during a combined mission with the U.S. military. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Martin K Newton)

So far this year, his forces have nearly doubled the monthly averages for finding IED caches, Mixon told reporters in the Pentagon via a satellite link from Contingency Operating Base Speicher, outside of Tikrit. The forces also have doubled the monthly average for killing the insurgents who use them, he said. "The enemy is ruthless in using IEDs," Mixon said. "We are equally as aggressive and violent in our approach to defeat them."

Mixon said a cache found last week in Diyala had enough material to make about 130 "explosively formed projectiles," as well as military-grade rockets and mortars, the largest find of that type so far. While EFPs make up only one percent of IEDs used against Coalition forces, they are among the most deadly. Locals are more willing to lead Coalition forces to weapons and bombs caches partly because of the increased presence of Iraqi forces, Mixon said.

"The population areas that we work in are more comfortable with the Iraqi security forces, so they are providing us more tips. Some of those tips come in through the tips lines. Some are as simple as a civilian walking in and providing information. So their comfort level is up," he said.

Another large cache found recently in Mosul included homemade explosive materials, such as fertilizers and acids often used in car bombs. Because of their recent focus on insurgents using IEDs, the threat has gone down in the area, Mixon said. Also, changes in enemy tactics are posted on an IED Web page which leaders access.

In addition, body armor and protective gear help keep Soldiers alive if hit. In fact, 76 percent of Soldiers injured by such explosives are able to return to duty, he said.

Iraq Reconstruction Report

A Reconstruction Partnership

	Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ALT) https://webportal.saalt.army.mil/main/aae.htm Assistant Secretary: <i>The Honorable Claude M. Bolton, Jr.</i> Principal Deputy to the ASA (ALT)/Director of Iraq Reconstruction and Program Management: <i>Mr. Dean Popp</i>
	 US Army Corps of Engineers - Gulf Region Division http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/index.html Commanding General: <i>Brig. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, USA</i>
	Joint Contracting Command – Iraq/Afghanistan http://www.rebuilding-iraq.net JCC-IA provides responsive operational contracting support to the Chief of Mission and Multi-National Corps - Iraq to efficiently acquire vital supplies, services and construction in support of the Coalition Forces and the relief and reconstruction of Iraq. Commander: <i>Maj. Gen. Darryl A. Scott, USAF</i>
	Office of the Assistant Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Policy and Procurement), Iraq DASA(P&P)-I provides the necessary administrative and contracting support to the Chief of Mission, JCCI-I/A, GRD, Multi-National Forces, and supports the humanitarian relief, reconstruction, and security of Iraq. ADASA(P&P)-I: <i>Mr. Lee Thompson</i>
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	U.S. Agency for International Development http://www.usaid.gov/iraq USAID is an independent federal government agency that receives overall foreign policy guidance from the Secretary of State. USAID supports long-term and equitable economic growth and advances U.S. foreign policy objectives by supporting: economic growth, agriculture and trade; global health; and, democracy, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance.

For further Iraq reconstruction, transition, and sustainment information:

U.S. Department of Commerce: <http://www.export.gov/iraq>

U.S. Embassy in Iraq: <http://iraq.usembassy.gov>

U.S. Central Command: <http://www.centcom.mil/sites/uscentcom2/default.aspx>

Multi-National Force – Iraq: <http://www.mnf-iraq.com>

Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq: <http://www.mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil/>



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