

United States Agency for International Development

IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is committed to improving the lives of all Iraqis by providing assistance to restore and upgrade essential services and infrastructure, encourage economic growth, support democracy, and restore health and education systems.

The U.S. government began contingency planning for humanitarian and reconstruction efforts in Iraq in late 2002, deploying a multi-agency Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to the area to assess humanitarian needs and to help coordinate relief efforts. At the same time, USAID deployed technical staff to prepare for post-conflict reconstruction needs. Personnel were located in Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, and Cyprus to provide regional support, and USAID established offices in Arbil, Baghdad, Al Hillah, and Al Basrah immediately following the conflict.

On May 2, 2003, USAID began directing more than \$1.5 billion in U.S. assistance, including \$700,000 in initial food aid. Today, USAID reconstruction, and humanitarian relief assistance is delivered through 45 grants and contracts to American nonprofit organizations and firms. They support infrastructure reconstruction; local governance capacity; health and education initiatives; and programs in the provision of food, power, water, and sanitation.

Since arriving in Iraq, USAID has worked closely with U.N. agencies, nongovernmental organizations the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Military Civil Affairs personnel. The USAID Mission in Iraq coordinates all programs with the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA).

USAID programs in Iraq support five objectives:

1. *Restore Essential Infrastructure:* Rebuild and rehabilitate the vital components of Iraq's infrastructure, including power, water, sanitation, and transportation networks.
2. *Support Essential Education, Health, and Social Services:* Ensure that basic healthcare needs of population are met and improve access to—and quality of—education.
3. *Expand Economic Opportunity:* Rejuvenate the economy, rebuild the agricultural sector, revitalize the southern marshlands, and assist marshland dwellers.
4. *Improve Government Efficiency and Accountability:* Support community development projects in impoverished communities and enhance local governance in support of stability, social service delivery, and citizen participation;
5. *Respond to Emergency Needs:* Provide emergency humanitarian aid, including food, water, shelter and medical supplies.

As of October 17, more than 100 USAID Mission personnel work in the region. USAID's private sector partners have more than 570 personnel in Iraq.