

IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION POWER

In April, Iraq's electrical generation capacity was 1,275 MW, or 29 percent of the pre-conflict level. A key component of USAID and the CPA's efforts in Iraq is the rehabilitation and improvement of the power system. Restoring electricity to homes, public facilities and businesses is critical to the reestablishment of all facets of Iraqi society. Since the conflict, electrical generation has more than tripled, reaching the pre-conflict generating level of 4,400 MW. However, Iraq's total power requirement is estimated to be approximately 7,000 MW--2,600 MW more than the pre-conflict level. Meeting a target of 6,000 MW by the summer of 2004 is the next major benchmark. Although the overall security situation has improved, especially since the deployment of "power police" to guard sensitive lines, looting of cables, destruction of high-tension towers, and fuel line sabotage persist. Decades of operation without regular maintenance and fuel shortages have also severely hampered dependable production.

Accomplishments

- Generation reached 4,518 MW on October 6—the highest rate yet and exceeding the capacity generated before the conflict.
- Work on new programs to generate 6,000 MW by summer 2004 is well underway.
- Bechtel has provided technical personnel at key stations to assist the Ministry of Electricity.
- CPA, Bechtel, and Ministry of Electricity crews are presently repairing thermal units that generate 28 percent of the power system's 8,000-MW potential.
- 2,240 "power police" have been deployed to provide security at key sites. 4,000 power police should be deployed by the end of November

Next Steps

- Continue work on initiative to generate 6,000 MW by summer 2004.
 - Near-term projects include: repairing and maintaining aged and overused power plants, and installing generators at Baghdad's water treatment and pumping stations.
 - Long-term projects include installing new gas turbine capacity at major power plants around the country; continuing rehabilitation of major thermal and gas power plants; and repairing major transmission lines brought down by sabotage.
 - Spring plant maintenance and overhaul work.

Issues

- Problems with sabotage and criminal activity continue.
- Age and condition of equipment make repairs undependable and parts difficult to acquire.