

Reconstructing Iraq

Rebuilding Infrastructure



Photo: Bechtel National, Inc.

Years of neglect under Saddam Hussein's regime, which has been aggravated by looters since the liberation of the country, has left Iraq with a devastated infrastructure.

Since President Bush declared an end to major combat operations, USAID's reconstruction efforts in Iraq have focused on rebuilding key infrastructure—a critical step in improving the lives of Iraqis. USAID has established projects to improve ports, repair bridges, provide electricity, and rebuild airports throughout the country.

On behalf of the American people, USAID:

- Upgraded warehouses, silos, and other facilities, and is re-employing over 3,500 workers at Umm Qasr, Iraq's main port.
- Continues to dredge the port, including Berth 10 that has been dredged to a depth of 11 meters, and to remove unexploded ordnance and other sunken obstacles. By early June, the channel was deep enough to allow ships carrying 15,000 metric tons of food to unload.
- Will upgrade airports at Al Basrah and Baghdad to international standards by mid-summer.
- Is providing Al Basrah with electricity 24 hours a day for the first time in more than a decade.
- Continues to repair high voltage transmission lines in central Iraq, where shortages still occur.
- Purchased chlorine for 100 days of water treatment in the southern governates of al Muthanna, Al Basrah, Dhi Qar, and Maysan, which will reduce high rates of death and illness, especially among children.
- In the An Najaf Governate, is improving rural water systems.
- Is restoring bridges at Ar Rutbah, Ar Ramadi, Mosul, and southeast of Baghdad, and continues to coordinate with the Iraqi Ministry of Public Works to prioritize the repair of 36 other bridges.

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