



## SUCCESS STORY

# Iraq's First Public Policy Bureau Opens

**The development of public policy is a critical tool for improved governance**



Photo by USAID/Tarabot

*Opening of the Public Policy Bureau in Baghdad*

**USAID is supporting the Government of Iraq to achieve its strategic goal of improving the functions of its public institution to better serve the Iraqi people.**

Under the previous regime, the Iraqi people had no voice in their government and no say in the formulation of the policies that directly affected their lives. The 2005 Constitution, however, established the roles and duties of the various executive offices in policy making. In fact, the Iraqi constitution is the only constitution in the Middle East to mandate its executive offices to engage in a democratic, consultative process of public policy making. In November 2011 the Bureau of Public Policy opened. It occupies a specially-built wing in the presidential offices, demonstrating the importance the President attaches to the critical role of policy in the country's governance. It also fulfills Presidential Decree No. 129 which called for the establishment of the Bureau in the Presidency Diwan to draft "public policies in various fields in accordance with the vision of the President to build and develop a prosperous Iraq consistent with the Constitution."

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony that formally inaugurated the Bureau, the Chairman of the Presidency Diwan, Minister Naseer Al-Ani, thanked USAID for its commitment to developing the skills of Iraqi personnel in the area of public policy, and for establishing and furnishing the facilities with IT equipment and a library. He also thanked USAID for providing technical assistance in achieving these goals.

Through the establishment of the Bureau, the Government of Iraq (GoI) is better equipped to deliver national policies that fulfill its Constitutional mandates.. The opening also marks an important transition in USAID's work assisting the GoI to develop its democratic institutions. It is the culmination of sustained work by USAID's National Capacity Development program (*Tatweer*) in building the capacity of Iraqi civil servants. That work is now being carried on by a successor, USAID's Iraq Administrative Reform Project or *Tarabot* (which means "linkages" in Arabic). USAID's *Tarabot* is working to further build the skills of the civil servants to create sustainable institutions and improve democratic governance.