

Rehabilitating Iraqi Public Facilities

Repairing Infrastructure for Growth

December 2003

Under the repressive rule of Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi people suffered economically and socially for years. Lack of investment and maintenance in public facilities allowed schools, health clinics, airports, seaports, bridges, railroads, and other services critical to public welfare to fall into a severe state of disrepair.

USAID programs focus on repairing these facilities and providing operational support and training to ensure a consistent provision of services.



Key Projects at Public Facilities

Reconstructing and supporting operations at **Baghdad and Al Basrah International Airports**

Rehabilitating **Umm Qasr Seaport**, Iraq's only deep-water port and a critical transit point for goods, including humanitarian assistance.

Reconstructing **three key bridges** (Khazir, Tikrit, and Al Mat) to allow easier transportation for both passengers and commerce.

Repairing **railways along critical lines** to ensure bulk grain and freight movement to key locations.

Renovating and **re-equipping 600 health clinics** which provide life saving health services.

Rehabilitating over 2,000 **schools throughout Iraq** to create a safe environment conducive to learning.

Renovating 10 **fire stations in Baghdad** to restore capability of stations to respond to fire emergencies.



A nurse monitors a premature baby in the neonatal ward of a clinic in Basrah renovated by USAID partner RTI. Photo: Thomas Hartwell

Baghdad International Airport has been refurbished and repaired by USAID partners Bechtel and Skylink. Photo: Thomas Hartwell

Airports

- Completing reconstruction activities at the Baghdad and Al Basrah International Airports.
- Processing an average of 50 non-military arrivals and departures each day at Baghdad International Airport.
- Began operating Iraqi customs office on October 21, 2003, in Baghdad Airport arrival halls.
- Begun construction of a security fence around Hawler International Airport as part of the Arbil Economic Development Strategy.
- Evaluated reconstruction requirements at Mosul Airport.

Bridges

- Completed construction of a 1.5-kilometer, four-lane bypass for the damaged Al Mat bridge—an essential route for the transport of humanitarian goods
- Demolished irreparable sections of the Khazir and Tikrit bridges, two key spans on roads that connect Baghdad to cities in the north, and begun reconstruction.
- Repaired a floating bridge on the Tigris River in Al Kut, improving traffic for approximately 50,000 travelers a day.

In close cooperation with Iraqi nationals and the Coalition Provisional Authority, USAID is restoring critical infrastructure, improving healthcare and education services, expanding economic opportunities, and implementing good governance.

Rehabilitating Public Facilities

Umm Qasr Seaport

- The port reopened to commercial traffic June 17 and the first passenger vessel arrived July 16—exceeding goals for the use of the port.
- Dredging of the seaport is complete, and Umm Qasr is able to handle deep-draft ships at all 21 berths.
- On November 14, the first bulk cargo grain ship arrived in the port and unloaded 52,000 tons of wheat. A second grain ship unloaded 52,185 additional tons of wheat in December.
- Five hundred Iraqi staff work at the port, the majority of which are in the Marine Department.
- From May 23 to November 30, 638,000 metric tons of goods were offloaded at the port.
- Power supply and grain facilities are operational, enabling the storage and distribution of humanitarian goods.
- Interim port tariffs were approved and applied on June 20, providing a revenue stream for the financial sustainability of port operations.
- Security fencing has been erected at the grain facility and at the old and new ports.



A dredging vessel arrives in the port of Umm Qasr. Dredging of the port has allowed ships to enter the port, allowing supplies and humanitarian aid to enter Iraq.



Renovation is almost completed at the Umm Qasr High School for Boys, which was looted and vandalized. (Photo: Thomas Hartwell)

Health Clinics

- Rehabilitated 20 delivery rooms, serving more than 300,000 residents of Basrah.
- Renovating more than 60 primary health clinics and re-equipping more than 600.
- Evaluated 18 national and regional public health laboratories for equipment needs.
- Rehabilitated the National Polio Laboratory.

Schools

- Rehabilitated 2,088 schools for the first term of the 2003-04 school year.
- Awarded 350 grants worth \$5.2 million to rehabilitate schools and education directorates general countrywide.
- Established the Education Management Information System at the Ministry of Education to aid in the systematic tracking of statistical information on the education sector. This project was in collaboration with UNICEF and UNHIC.

Fire Stations

- Renovated 10 fire stations in Baghdad that were looted after the conflict.



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