

U.S. -Iraqi Partnership: Illustrative Examples

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Field Work. USDA agricultural advisors have been working in Iraqi provinces sharing their expertise with Iraqi farmers and local officials to improve irrigation technology, expand food processing, and build farmer organizations. USDA has also deployed soil experts, statisticians, and animal disease experts to work in Iraq.

Policy Advice. USDA agricultural advisors assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad are working with the Iraqi Ministries of Agriculture, Planning, Water Resources, and Higher Education. These advisors have contributed their expertise in agricultural strategy, animal health, food safety, soil and water conservation, and agricultural extension and education.

Promoting U.S. Exports. U.S. agricultural exports to Iraq were \$173 million in the first six months of 2010 and consisted mostly of wheat, rice, and poultry. In June 2010, USDA organized a visit of 17 U.S. companies to Iraq to discuss commercial opportunities with more than 250 Iraqi companies. This was the first large public trade event for U.S. firms in Baghdad.

Department of Commerce

U.S.-Iraq Business and Investment Conference (BICK) and Trade Mission. More than 1,100 U.S. and Iraqi government officials and private sector representatives attended the BICK in October 2009. The BICK highlighted twelve sectors of the Iraqi economy in need of private investment. To organize this event, the Commerce Department worked closely with Iraqi counterparts at the Iraqi National Investment Commission and Ministry of Trade to arrange business-to-business meetings between the Iraqis and U.S. companies. The Department of Commerce is now organizing a visit to Iraq by U.S. firms representing a broad range of industries, including but not limited to oil and gas, construction, and information and communications technology. The purpose of this trip is to explore commercial opportunities.

U.S.-Iraq Business Dialogue (USIBD). The USIBD, created in 2007, was born out of an agreement between the Department of Commerce and the Iraqi Ministry of Trade. The USIBD is a bilateral trade dialogue charged with enhancing bilateral commercial ties and advising the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and Iraqi Minister of Trade on private sector views, needs, and concerns regarding business development in Iraq. The last full meeting of the USIBD was held in October 2009, and it was chaired by Secretary Locke, Deputy Secretary Hightower, and Iraqi Minister of Trade al-Safi. In August 2010, the Department of Commerce appointed ten new members to the U.S.-Iraq Business Dialogue (USIBD). The USIBD plans to hold its next meeting in Washington, D.C. in September 2010.

Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP). The CLDP is helping the Iraqi government design and implement a commercial law framework to facilitate trade and investment. The CLDP is providing advice to Iraqi government officials, such as the Ministry of Oil, on how to effectively negotiate major contracts with foreign parties. Working with the Chief Justice of Iraq, the CLDP is helping establish a curriculum to educate sitting judges on modern commercial law principles and is promoting the practice of arbitration.

Department of Energy

Training and Reintegration of Iraqi Scientists and Officials to Reduce the Risk of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Proliferation. Through its program Global Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention, the Department of Energy engaged some 140 former Iraqi WMD experts through small-scale research and business development projects and arranged access to scientists in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East in order to reintegrate the Iraqi experts into the international business and scientific communities. In cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), The Department of Energy held a workshop in May 2010 to train key Iraqi stakeholders on how to implement the IAEA Additional Protocol, including state reporting mechanisms and protocols.

Regulatory Capacity Building for the Iraqi Oil and Natural Gas. Working with the U.S. National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the Department of Energy is undertaking a capacity building initiative to increase Iraq's electricity availability and reliability. This effort includes the development of an Iraqi regulatory body to institutionalize mid-level decision making, enhance transparency, and encourage the domestic development and use of natural gas.

Renewable Energy Strategic Plan and Applications for Iraq. The Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory is working with Iraqi government officials to develop a renewable energy strategy. The plan would support alternative energy and off-grid technologies, which could increase the amount of oil and gas resources available for export.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

The Iraq - HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) Partnership on Behavioral Health. For the past three years, HHS has assisted Iraq in its efforts to rebuild its capacity to provide mental health services through an exchange of mental-health experts. As part of the Initiative on Trauma and Behavioral Health Services, SAMHSA hosted its first cohort of mental health professionals in the United States in 2008, and plans to host a second cohort of 24 Iraqi mental health professionals in the fall of 2010. The Initiative focuses on trauma and behavioral health services and brings together multidisciplinary teams of Iraqi behavioral health providers for visits to American medical centers.

HHS/Center for Disease Control/Ministry of Health Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) Project. This project was initiated in 2008 and is intended to enhance Iraq's epidemiologic and disease control and prevention capacities. The program trains epidemiologists and also assists in the monitoring of communicable diseases and analysis and interpretation of surveillance data. It is a collaborative effort between HHS/Center for Disease Control, the Iraqi Ministry of Health and Ministry of Higher Education, the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Department of State (Iraqi Scientist Training Program, ISEP) and others. In 2010, 11 Iraqi medical doctors from all over Iraq were accepted into the program and began their training.

Donation of medical journals to Baghdad Medical School. In July 2009, the U.S. National Institutes of Health in partnership with USAID donated approximately 50,000 journals with a

subscription value of \$27 million to the University of Baghdad Medical School. Restocking this major medical library in Iraq provides physicians, mental health professionals, researchers and students with access to up-to-date advances in medical research for enhancing research capacity in country.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Customs and Border Protection (CBP). CBP personnel provide training and mentoring to the Iraqi Ministry of Interior (MOI) Directorates of Border Enforcement, Port of Entry, Travel and Nationality, and to the Ministry of Finance Civil Customs Commission. The training includes how to conduct effective customs and immigration operations. CBP assistance is geared toward the encouraging Iraqi adoption of realistic management controls, adequate organizational structures, operating procedures that conform to modern laws and regulations, and updated technology.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). ICE supports efforts to develop a stronger anti-money laundering/counterterrorism financing regime. ICE actively encourages cooperation among Iraqi government regulatory, investigative, and judicial agencies to improve the government's capacity to investigate and prosecute money laundering and terrorist financing. These efforts builds on existing and ongoing U.S. operations to combat terrorist financing networks in Iraq and its neighboring countries. **Repatriations of Iraqi Cultural Artifacts.** As a result of an ICE-led investigation, the United States returned six Iraqi artifacts to the Iraqi government in February 2010. The items included a Babylonian clay foundation cone, ca. 2100 B.C.; a Sumerian bronze foundation cone and stone tablet with inscription, ca. 2500 B.C. to 1800 B.C.; an Iraqi coin, ca. 250 B.C.; and a neo-Assyrian gold earrings ca. 8-7th Century B.C. In 2008, in one of the largest repatriations to date, ICE returned 1,044 cultural antiquities to the Iraqi government. These antiquities had been seized in four separate investigations dating to 2001. The items include terra cotta cones inscribed in Cuneiform text, a praying goddess figurine that was once embedded in a Sumerian temple, and coins bearing the likenesses of ancient emperors.

Department of the Interior

Oil and Gas Resource Management. The Department of Interior has provided direct technical and programmatic training to Iraqi government officials in the Ministry of Oil and the State Oil companies. The training covers oil and gas resource management, including tendering, resource evaluation; field operations; information technology infrastructure; revenue management; and environmental stewardship. The Department of Interior has conducted a series of workshops and provided on the job training opportunities for Iraqi middle and senior level managers in the state-run oil industry. These exchanges allow the Department of Interior to share its expertise on lease management, resource evaluation, field operations and revenue management.

Establishing a Network of Relationships. The Department of Interior is introducing Iraqi government officials to their counterparts in the international oil and gas community through third-party technical training, industry meetings, and attendance at events like the Offshore Technology Conference held in Houston in spring 2010.

Department of Justice

Establishment of the Iraqi High Tribunal. The Department of Justice led the effort to create the Iraqi High Tribunal (IHT) to prosecute members of the former regime, including Saddam Hussein. The FBI assisted the Iraqis in investigating crimes committed by the former regime. The United States Marshals Service helped the Iraqi government establish security for the court and protect defendants, judges, witnesses, and attorneys during the trial of the most notorious defendants. Prosecutors from the Department of Justice assisted the IHT judges in the development of policies and procedures for conducting trials that are fair, transparent, and largely accepted by the international community. The IHT is now fully functioning under Iraqi leadership.

Establishment of the Iraqi Corrections System. The Department of Justice has worked closely with Iraqi leaders to develop a national prison system. Beginning in 2003, Justice advisors from the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) methodically identified facilities, vetted staff, and housed criminal defendants, creating a system that became the Iraqi Corrections Service, now administered by the Ministry of Justice. Today the Justice Ministry operates eleven prisons and eight detention centers; houses more than 24,000 inmates, including high-value prisoners; and employs more than 15,000 staff.

Equipping the Iraqi Justice System to Address Major Crimes. Members of the Department of Justice's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training (OPDAT) have worked to develop Criminal Justice Councils that bring Iraqi government officials together to form Iraqi solutions to obstacles in addressing major crimes throughout Iraq. U.S. attorneys, working closely with Iraq's judicial leadership, developed a program to send traveling judges to the most dangerous locations in Iraq to try terrorism cases. This program resulted in the first terror suspects being brought to justice outside of Baghdad, and significantly improved the legitimacy of the Iraqi government outside the capital. At the same time, the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), and the U.S. Marshals stood up a Major Crimes Task Force in Baghdad. This task force partners U.S. federal agents with Iraqi officials in an effort to provide Iraqi investigators with the skills needed to investigate terrorism and other major crimes.

Department of Transportation

Aviation sector. Through projects, training, and technical assistance, the Department of Transportation has helped Iraq develop its air routes and assume control of its airspace for flight levels over 24,000 feet. As Iraq prepares to assume control of all of its airspace, the Department of Transportation is helping Iraq prepare to fully meet international standards. Aviation sector improvements have made it possible for major airlines to initiate service to Iraq, including Royal Jordanian, Lufthansa, Austrian Air, Turkish Airlines, Etihad, Middle East, and Gulf Air.

Ports. The Department of Transportation has helped Iraq significantly improve the capacity of the country's principal port at Umm Qasr. Due to successive military conflicts, capacity at the port had declined significantly. The main channels were silted and littered with war debris. In addition, the port's administrative capabilities were limited, its infrastructure needed rehabilitation and assistance, and insurgent elements controlled and profited from port activities.

Today, the port at Umm Qasr is functioning at 45 percent of capacity and is currently receiving over 100 vessels per month. Throughput is over 350,000 TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit, a measure of cargo container capacity) per year. Port infrastructure, including cranes, and rail lines and road connections, have been rehabilitated. A number of sunken vessels have been removed from the waterway and the port authority is working to control silting. The port authority has also issued commercial contracts for a number of berths. The Department of Transportation is now helping Iraqi officials to meet international security standards.

Railroad. The Department of Transportation works closely with the Iraqi Republic Railroad (IRR) to improve passenger service, implement an advanced train control system, and increase freight and passenger lines in operation. Additionally, with the support of the Department of Transportation, a new passenger traffic line has been opened from Iraq to Turkey through Syria, forging the way for a rail connection from the port of Umm Qasr to Europe.

Department of the Treasury

Engagement with International Financial Institutions. The Department of Treasury has been actively engaged in the negotiation and implementation of Iraq's stand-by programs with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in an effort to support the maintenance of a stable macroeconomic environment in Iraq. This year, the Department of Treasury encouraged Iraq and the IMF to agree to a third multi-billion dollar program. The Department of Treasury has also been instrumental in helping Iraq increase its engagement with the World Bank to promote financial sector development and improvements in Iraq's social safety net, working closely with the Iraqi government to facilitate the negotiation of the World Bank's Development Policy Loan to Iraq, which was approved in spring 2010.

Debt Relief. In support of Iraq's reintegration with international financial markets, the Department of Treasury has worked closely with Iraq's creditors to facilitate a write off of more than \$65 billion in Saddam-era debt. Reducing this debt is an important step towards cleaning up the Iraqi balance sheet by getting rid of Saddam-era liabilities. This effort helped Iraq reduce its external debt burden from over 350 percent of GDP to about 140 percent in 2009. Debt relief efforts are ongoing with Iraq's remaining creditors, which include Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Designing and Executing a Sound Iraqi Budget. Technical advisors from the Department of Treasury have worked closely with Iraqi ministries including the Ministry of Finance and Planning to help Iraq formulate appropriate budgets and execute funds efficiently on priority reconstruction and security tasks. Iraq's spending on reconstruction has risen from \$1.2 billion in 2005 to almost \$7 billion in 2009, and Iraq's spending on security has risen from \$2.1 billion in 2005 to almost \$8 billion in 2009.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Youth Initiatives. In August 2010, USAID and the Iraqi Minister of Trade launched a new program called the Iraqi Youth Initiatives (IYI). IYI is now open in eight Iraqi provinces providing business skills training, apprenticeships and microfinance loans. The program is

projected to benefit over 5,000 deserving Iraqi youths between the ages of 18 and 35 and create approximately 2,500 full-time jobs.

Providing Access to Credit. USAID helped establish nine Iraqi-owned microfinance institutions (MFIs) and provided financial support to three international MFIs operating in all 18 provinces. Since 2004, these MFIs have distributed more than 178,400 loans worth \$410 million with a repayment rate of 98 percent.

Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and other Vulnerable Populations: Since 2003, USAID has contributed \$396 million for humanitarian aid in Iraq. USAID assistance is provided to the most vulnerable populations, including IDPs, returnees, religious minorities, orphans, the disabled, and widows. This assistance has reached close to one million people and includes emergency relief items, rehabilitation of shelter, primary healthcare, improved water and sanitation, and income generation activities. In addition, USAID has provided assistance to the Iraqi government to build its capacity to assist returnees and IDPs and coordinate humanitarian response efforts.

Incentivizing Private Bank Lending: USAID helped to establish the Iraqi Company for Bank Guarantees (ICBG), which incentivizes private bank lending to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) through loan guarantees insured by 16 Iraqi banks. The ICBG also provides assistance to private banks by training them in alternative lending instruments. The ICBG has disbursed 1,316 loan guarantees totaling \$19 million.

United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA)

Aviation Sector Orientation Visit. In February 2010, USTDA brought a delegation of Iraqi aviation officials, led by the Minister of Transportation, to Washington, D.C., New Orleans, and Oklahoma City to meet with senior U.S. transportation officials and industry representatives. The visit was an opportunity for the Iraqi delegates to speak with their American public sector counterparts about U.S. best practices and systems that could be of benefit as Iraq upgrades its aviation and ports infrastructure. The delegates met with a range of American technology, equipment and services providers in order to identify opportunities for new commercial engagements.

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Electrical Power 2010 Conference. Delegates from Iraq's Ministry of Electricity, the Kurdish Regional Government Ministry of Electricity, and the Iraqi private sector traveled to Cairo in spring 2010 to participate in an international conference that showcased electricity sector projects to encourage regional and international collaboration. More than 275 participants in the conference, including 60 representatives of 40 U.S. companies such as GE Energy and Honeywell.

Oil and Gas Sector Technical Support. From 2004-2007, USTDA funded a multifaceted training program for the Iraqi Ministry of Oil in the areas of management, technical/engineering, and human resources. USTDA has also hosted Iraqi government officials at power facilities in the United States to teach them about best practices in the power sector.