



# Scope of Initiative Iraq Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance

As announced in the 2008-09 Budget, the Australian Government will commence a significant new package of initiatives laying the foundation for implementing its long-term commitment to increase Australia's international development assistance to 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015-16.

The *Iraq Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance* initiative aims to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of Iraq's civilian population, improve the capacity of the Iraqi Government, especially in the agricultural sector, and assist in its rehabilitation efforts.

The *Iraq Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance* initiative will invest \$140.0 million over three years. This will include \$60.0 million in 2008-09 (including an amount of \$20 million that will be dedicated to humanitarian assistance), \$40.0 million in 2009-10 and \$40.0 million in 2010-11.

Activities under the initiative will include:

- Contributions to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of Iraq's vulnerable civilian population by implementing targeted projects supporting health, women, children, and nutrition;
- Improving Iraqi government capacity by delivering 100 scholarships to support the agricultural sector, assisting the Ministries of Agriculture, Finance and Human Rights through training programs in Australia and supporting the role of women in key ministries and women's access to training and capacity development programs; and
- Assisting the restoration of essential services (including health, water and sanitation) particularly in agriculture.

AusAID will work with International Medical Corps, The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and non government organisations wherever possible as part of this initiative on humanitarian and rehabilitation.