



Australian Government

AusAID

Iraq

APPROACH TO HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

2007–2010

AUSTRALIA'S OVERSEAS AID PROGRAM AIMS TO SUPPORT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO REDUCE POVERTY AND ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, IN LINE WITH AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL INTEREST, INCLUDING FOREIGN POLICY AND SECURITY IMPERATIVES.

TOWARDS A SECURE, STABLE DEMOCRATIC STATE

The goal of Australia's aid program to Iraq from 2007 to 2010 is to support the reconstruction effort by improving the quality of life of Iraqi people and strengthening governance systems and security. Australia has an interest in a secure and democratic Iraq including to enhance stability in the Middle East region.

The Saddam Hussein regime severely corrupted and degraded most elements of Iraq's government, economy and society. As a result of his legacy there are major obstacles to peace and stability, and Iraq's capacity for rapid recovery is constrained. The Iraqi Government needs help to provide basic services, to strengthen policing and judicial systems and to protect human rights and uphold the rule of law.

In the face of challenges, Iraq continues to make progress in important areas. Significant achievements include the adoption of a new Iraqi Constitution, national elections in 2005 and the formation of a national unity government in 2006. Economic reforms are opening up market opportunities in many parts of the country. Service delivery is improving as reforms and investments occur.



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IRAQ'S DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

The Iraqi Government is working with the international community to address the many challenges facing the country. It is focusing on meeting basic needs, such as ensuring access to adequate food, water and power, protecting the rights of its citizens and ensuring the optimal use of resources.

Iraq has prepared a National Development Strategy for 2005 to 2007, outlining its plans to develop a peaceful, democratic and prosperous nation that is fully integrated into the global economy. The strategy lists four reconstruction priorities: strengthening the foundations of economic growth; revitalizing the private sector; improving the quality of life for Iraqi people; and strengthening good governance and security. In July 2006 the Iraqi Government and the United Nations launched the International Compact for Iraq, which aims to reform Iraq's economic, political, security and social sectors with the support of the international community.

From a development assistance and humanitarian perspective, Iraq remains a complex and difficult environment in which to work to reduce poverty. Current insecurity erodes development gains and increases the cost of aid interventions.

HELPING TO REBUILD SERVICES AND SYSTEMS

Australia's assistance to Iraq supports the development objectives of the Iraqi Government. During 2007 to 2010 we will continue to support programs to improve basic services and build Iraq's capacity in key sectors such as economic management; law and justice, human rights and public sector reform.

Australia is maximising the impact of our aid by focusing on specific opportunities and sectors which could benefit most from our expertise, such as agriculture. We channel development and humanitarian funds through bilateral training agreements, multilateral organisations, international NGOs and larger donor agencies.

From March 2003 until June 2007, Australia has committed over A\$173 million to reconstruction, rehabilitation and humanitarian projects in Iraq through the aid program. In 2004, Australia agreed to forgive 80 per cent of Iraq's debt, totalling about US\$850 million.

PHOTOS

TOP LEFT: *Woman with child assisted by maternal health program with support by AusAID and CARE. PHOTO: Neil Hawkins*

MIDDLE LEFT: *7-year-old Zahria. She lives in ABaya'a in East Baghdad. Next to her house is the Hai Sadam 2 sewage pumping station, maintained with assistance from CARE and AusAID.*

PHOTO: Neil Hawkins

BOTTOM LEFT: *Children in Iraq washing hands with clean water supplied by AusAID and World Vision. PHOTO: World Vision Australia*

This paper has been produced to guide the delivery of aid to Iraq for 2007–2010. It is aligned with the key themes of the 2006 White Paper on Australia's overseas aid program, namely accelerating growth, fostering effective functioning states, investing in people and promoting stability and cooperation.