



# Iraq Reconstruction Report

Focusing on Construction & Sustainment

11.15.06



## Special Edition: Empowerment of Iraqi Women

### Women's Issues Milestones

- Over \$2 billion in direct contracts have been awarded to Iraqi women-owned businesses by the Joint Contracting Command – Iraq/Afghanistan and the Gulf Region Division for reconstruction work.
- The Iraqi Constitution, approved by popular referendum in October 2005, sets a goal of having women constitute no less than 25% of the parliament; electoral lists must be written so that every third candidate on the voting lists is a woman.
- In 2005 and 2006, the State Department's Youth Exchange Program selected eight young Iraqi women to live with an American host family and attend a U.S. high school for an academic year.
- Over 2000 women ran for office in the January 2005 Parliamentary elections. Women won 31% of the seats in the Transitional National Assembly.
- Over the past 2 years, 17 Iraqi women have been awarded Fulbright Scholarships in the social sciences, public administration, law, business, and public health fields.
- In the March 2006 Council of Representatives, 66 of the 275 seats are held by women.
- Nearly 60 percent of USAID's small business grants administered have been awarded to women.
- USAID provided \$500,000 to the Raffadin Women's Coalition, comprised of more than 30 women's groups, to help them produce leaflets, organize events, and access the media.
- More than 50 businesswomen registered for a World Bank three-day session on microfinance.



An Iraqi woman walks next to posters promoting women's rights.



Iraqi women practice their computer skills at the Fatima Al-Zahra Center for Women's Rights in Hilla. The center is open to all and offers nutrition and health classes, internet/computer training, and sewing facilities.

### Inside this Issue

Page 2	Turning Skills into Financial Independence Empowerment of Women: The Way Forward
Page 3	Sector Overview
Page 4	Women Join Iraqi Police Enrollment in School Reduces Gender Gap
Page 5	Women's Democracy Initiative Non-Governmental Capacity Building
Page 6	UN Agency Focuses on Women's Concerns Women Active in Iraqi Ministries
Page 7	Corporate Assistance: Microsoft Current U.S. Initiatives
Page 8	DoD Reconstruction Partnership

### Smiles at the Assyria Village Women's Facility Dedication



The \$230,000 Assyria Women's Center is a 400 square-meter facility that includes computers and sewing machines to encourage female business opportunities. This center benefits 4,600 Assyria Village residents as well as other area women. The project was funded by the Commander's Emergency Response Program which gives U.S. military commanders the ability to respond to humanitarian relief and reconstruction requirements. (Gulf Region Division Photo)

## Turning Skills into Financial Independence

Article Courtesy of Women for Women International



WASHINGTON — Women for Women International uses a rights-based approach to development issues which provides women survivors of war and civil strife with the tools, resources and education they need to rebuild their lives,

families and communities in ways that are productive and secure. Their work bridges a critical gap between humanitarian aid and long-term development and reconstruction.

The organization helps women transform their skills into financial independence and sustainability and the program is designed to help women start and manage their own micro-enterprises.

*Story Continued on Page 8.*

## Women's Advocate Initiative Project Manager Integral to Gulf Region Division Outreach

*"... Women will play an extremely vital role in the successful rebuilding of this country." Azza Humadi*



Azza Humadi, Women's Advocate Initiative Project Manager, a Stanley Baker Hill LLC employee working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), speaks to reporters at a business opportunities seminar for Iraqi women. The seminar, held in Baghdad, was sponsored by the Joint Contracting Command – Iraq/ Afghanistan and USACE. "Events such as these are a 'must' for my countrywomen," she stated. (Photo by Tom Clarkson, GRD)

## Iraqi Women's Gift Fund

The U.S. Iraqi Women's Gift Fund, established by the U.S. Department of State, finances projects aimed at supporting educational programs in areas such as political participation, human rights education, small business development, job skills training, and literacy.

Contributions are especially appreciated since funds can be immediately applied toward the most pressing needs.

For more information:

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/57337.pdf>

## Economic Empowerment of Women in Iraq: The Way Forward

Story By Ylli Bajraktari  
U.S. Institute for Peace



WASHINGTON — A UN/World Bank survey conducted after the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime revealed that even though women represented about 55 percent of Iraq's population, they made up only 23 percent of the workforce.

Although the international community and Iraqis have since devoted considerable attention to boosting the status of women in Iraq, most of these efforts have focused on the social and political empowerment of women. Full democratic consolidation in Iraq can only be achieved by guaranteeing, in addition, a leading economic role for women in Iraq.

Rend al-Rahim, executive director of the Iraq Foundation and former representative of the Iraqi Governing Council in the United States, opened the first meeting by observing that although a large amount of work on women's issues has been undertaken in Iraq, women continue to be deeply affected by the underlying social and political structures in the nation.

"Women in Iraq do not live in a vacuum," she said. In order for the economic empowerment of women to proceed in Iraq, al-Rahim stated, "Society as a whole needs to be empowered."

Aside from the daily violence faced by women, serious impediments, in her view, include patriarchal customs that accord women an inferior status in Iraq. "Disparities in levels of education, economic advancement, and social standards" also arise from this socio-cultural heritage.

However, the main tenets of Islam do not prevent women from working and acknowledge women's property rights, al-Rahim said.

As a result, in Iraq today, many women are engaged in government, health professions, and universities. However, despite this engagement, "We see few women involved in the private sector, although great effort was made to award grants to women-owned businesses."

According to al-Rahim, the most important barrier to women's participation in the private sector is the lack of basic information about lending opportunities, access to credit, and loan requirements, as well as a deficiency in business skills. Iraqi women do not have the business skills that would enable them to enter the banking sector or to manage private sector enterprises.

*Story Continued on Page 6.*

## Sector Overview: Current Status – Final Effects

Compiled By: John Daley, PCO Washington

As of: November 05, 2006

- \$9.9 billion of the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) has been disbursed by DoD, representing 73.1% of total funds allocated to DoD
- 3,295 projects starts (out of 3,539 planned projects). This number includes the DoD projects funded by the IRRF and the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI)
- 2,604 projects are complete

Infrastructure Sector	Current Progress	Final Effects
<b>Electricity</b>	<p>1,420 MW capacity added by GRD projects</p> <p>Increased power generation to 1.3 million homes</p> <p>Improved Electricity Distribution to approximately 370K Homes</p> <p>Hours of Power: 12 Iraq, 8 Baghdad (last week average)</p>	<p>1,879 MW capacity added by GRD projects (2,555 for all USG projects)</p> <p>Increased power generation to 1.7 million homes</p> <p>Improved Electricity Distribution to approximately 824K Homes</p> <p>Hours of Power: 10-12 Iraqi, 10-12 Baghdad</p>
<b>Oil</b>	<p>2.5 Million Barrels Per Day (MBPD) production capacity</p> <p>Under 2 MBPD actual production (Nov 2-8)</p> <p>Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) production capacity of 1,200 Tons per Day</p>	<p>3.0 MBPD oil production capacity</p> <p>LPG production capacity production capacity of 3,000 Tons per Day</p>
<b>Water &amp; Sewer</b>	<p>Added 419,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity (benefits an estimated 2.0 million Iraqis)</p>	<p>Additional 1,150,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity (will benefit approximately 5.3 million Iraqis. All USG projects will benefit 8.4 million Iraqis)</p>
<b>Health</b>	<p>Seven IRRF-funded Primary Healthcare Centers (PHC) completed (six of these are open). All remaining PHCs under contract.</p> <p>14 IRRF-funded hospitals rehabilitation projects completed</p>	<p>142 PHCs serving a population of 5 to 6.5 million Iraqis</p> <p>25 IRRF-funded hospital rehabilitation projects</p>
<b>Education</b>	<p>838 schools providing classrooms for 335,000 students</p>	<p>850 schools providing classrooms for 340,000 students</p>
<b>Security &amp; Justice</b>	<p>354 police facilities completed</p> <p>245 border forts completed</p>	<p>398 police facilities</p> <p>253 border forts</p>
<b>Transportation &amp; Communications</b>	<p>239 Kilometers (KM) of village roads</p> <p>Provided emergency response dispatch system ('911' service) covering 12 million Iraqis in 15 cities</p>	<p>427 KM of improved village roads</p> <p>157 KM of improved major roads and five bridges</p> <p>Provided emergency response dispatch system ('911' service) covering 12 million Iraqis in 15 cities</p>

## Women Join Iraqi Police

Story and Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class John J. Pistone

IRBIL, Iraq — Women's rights might not be the first thing one thinks of when someone mentions Iraq, however, some officials in the Kurdish provinces in northern Iraq would like it to be.



Lt. Narseed is one of the first female officers in the city.

According to Irbil Minister of Interior Karim Sinjari, equality is very important for the residents of the Kurdish provinces. "We are working very hard to be progressive and set the standard for human rights in Iraq," he said.

According to Sinjari, changing the country's view of women is an important step to separate themselves from the "old way" of thinking. Although women throughout Iraq have been given the right to vote and are accepted in the army and

police academies, the city of Irbil was the first to allow women to hold positions of power.

Iraqi Police Lt. Narseed, is one of the first female officers in the city. She wanted to be a police officer at a very young age but thought that the career field would not be open within her lifetime. That all changed when the Coalition removed Saddam from power. She said she had already graduated from college and was becoming a lawyer when she made the decision to become a police officer. "When I heard that the doors had opened for women to become officers, I jumped at the chance."

She said that she has no issue with men following orders or accepting her as an authoritative figure. "Here, there is no difference between male officers and female officers. If I tell the men to do something, they do it. There is no hesitation on their part." Narseed said that her years of law school have helped her tremendously.

"Being a lawyer has helped me with the investigative side of police work. I know what a judge or an attorney is going to be looking for. This gives me a slight edge over some of the others on the force," Narseed said.

Iraqi Police Lt. Col. Aswar, the Khabat station commander, said he is happy to have Narseed on the force. "We find that she is much better at interrogation than most of her male counterparts, especially when it comes to interrogating women. She quickly identifies the hot buttons and knows

how to get the right information," Aswar said.

Another woman setting the bar higher is Iraqi police officer 2nd Lt. Lana Abdulwahad at the Traffic Police Academy in Irbil. In addition to her duties as a traffic officer, Abdulwahad is an instructor at the academy and helps translate Kurdish and English for her students and other instructors. Like Narseed, she has a four-year college degree and a degree from the Irbil Police Academy. "We are equals, so we must work together," she said. "No longer are there barriers for women."

She said there is equal opportunity for women in promotions. According to Abdulwahad, a woman or man can be promoted in four years of duty if he or she passes an exam.

Narseed said Iraqi girls need to see stronger women at the forefront. They need to know that they are only limited by their imagination. "We are professional; we deserve to be recognized for what we can contribute and not for our gender," said Narseed.



A woman takes a police entrance exam. (Photo by Edward G. Martens)

## Secretary of Labor and Newly Appointed Women Labor Officials Tour Workforce Center

U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao, Sen. Norm Coleman, and three Iraqi women from Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs speak with the news media at the Minneapolis, Minn., Workforce Center. The U.S. Department of Labor hosted the women for a series of meetings and tours of American job-placement and job-training recently.



The Iraqi women met with a variety of Labor Department officials, congressional leaders and community leaders, all as part of a fact finding mission on job creation and job training that could be applicable in Iraq. (Photo by Ben Garvin, Dept. of Labor)

## Increasing Enrollment in School Reduces Gender Gap



Education programs are increasing the enrollment of girls in school, thereby reducing the substantial gender gap in primary school enrollment, and increasing girl's literacy in rural areas. Accelerated learning program condenses six years of primary school into three years, giving girls the opportunity to receive a primary school education. Girls learn life skills and gain the academic background necessary to return to formal schooling. (USAID Photo)

## Women's Democracy Initiative

Information and Photo Provided by State Department  
Office of Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The State Department's Iraqi Women's Democracy Initiative is administered by the Office of the Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues and the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.



Since Sept. 2004, eight major grantees have conducted extensive training programs in Iraq to help provide Iraqi women with skills in democracy-building, organizational and political leadership, teaching, coalition-building, organizational management, entrepreneurship, and the media. The program also provides job training and micro-grants to Iraqi women, with particular outreach to youth and the unemployed. Additionally, the Initiative also strengthens and builds partnerships with local universities, and establishes centers to be run by and for young Iraqi women.

## Public-Private Partnerships the Theme at Working Group Meeting

WASHINGTON — The Iraq Women's Economic Empowerment Working Group held its fifth meeting in Washington, DC recently. Sponsored by the Department of State and the United States Institute of Peace, the working group focuses on connecting private sector and civil society organizations to help empower Iraqi women by providing financial support or business training that will enable them to grow and improve their businesses. Over 30 people attended, representing the private sector, non-governmental organizations and the U.S. Government.



The meeting focused on forging public-private partnerships to help Iraqi women entrepreneurs gain access to training, training materials, credit, mentoring, and venues to sell their goods.

Ambassador Steven E. Steiner, Acting Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues at the U.S. Department of State, emphasized the need for private sector funding for training of Iraqi women and for production and translation of training materials.

Participants established two subgroups to work on creating access to online training in Arabic, and to develop an Adopt an Entrepreneur Program, a one-on-one mentoring program in which U.S. women business owners will partner with Iraqi women entrepreneurs.

## Non-Governmental Capacity Building Program

Story and Photo Courtesy of the Independent Women's Forum

### Small Grant and Capacity Building Initiative

WASHINGTON — Iraqi Women's Educational Institute's (IWEI) Small Grant and Capacity Building Initiative is designed to promote the capacity and sustainability of Iraqi women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in south central and southern Iraq so that they can be an active part of Iraq's nascent civil society. This initiative assists, supports, and trains Iraqi women through:

- the development of sustainable and independent Iraqi women's NGOs
- the advancement and support of Iraqi women's economic empowerment, including skills training and job creation for women
- efforts to support and advance Iraqi women's ability to advocate for women's human rights
- development and support of two women's resource centers in Karbala and Basrah



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice speaking before the Independent Women's Forum.

Through this small-grants program, IWEI develops and sustains capacity building and institutional support of 15 independent Iraqi women's NGOs in southern and south central Iraq.

IWEI also provides resource materials for NGO training on topics such as advocacy, use of technology, media skills, and grant-writing proposals.

IWEI has also developed and sustained two NGO women's empowerment and resource centers.

One center is located in Basrah and the other is located in Karbala.

Each center houses written materials related to NGO capacity building, and also provides a forum where women from the region can meet, host speakers, and acquire various skills training.

The empowerment and resource centers also serve as a place where women gain knowledge about economic development and women's human rights.

## Story Continued...The Way Forward

U.S. governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the UN have launched a variety of programs designed to assist women-led private sector initiatives and boost the employment of women in underrepresented sectors and activities.

The Army's Gulf Region Division (GRD) and the Iraq Project and Contracting Office (PCO) focused on supporting women-owned businesses directly by promoting the use of Iraqi women-owned businesses in reconstruction through direct contracting or subcontracting outlets.

The efforts led to wide-ranging contracts with women-owned businesses; from large-scale construction projects to the delivery of materials and services.

In addition, the GRD/PCO developed the Subcontracting Excellence Program Database as a web-based management tool to monitor the overall progress of these contracts. The database enables tracking the numbers of subcontracts going to Iraqi women-owned businesses and the progress by each of a dozen major contractors in hiring and training Iraqi women.

Over 200 sub-contracts have gone to Iraqi women-owned businesses. Additionally, the GRD/PCO developed a unique women's initiative program in the water sector that provides Iraqi women from the Ministries of Municipalities and Public Works and Water Resources with the tools they need to develop their skills and ultimately advance their careers within their respective Ministries.

USAID focused on making all of its Iraq programs, including public sector, private sector, and agriculture programs, gender inclusive. Through these programs, it has managed to train Iraqi women in accounting, entrepreneurship, financing, and management.



*Iraqi women showing their purple-stained fingers moments after voting. (U.S. Army Photo)*

USAID is also launching microfinance activities that will target women and women-owned businesses and will train women in lending as part of these activities.

The State Department's Iraqi Women's Democracy Initiative is training women in democracy building, political participation, economic empowerment, and media relations through U.S. NGO partners working in Iraq.

## UN Agency Focuses on Women's Concerns in Arab Region

Information from UNIFEM Website

AMMAN, Jordan — The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Arab States Regional Office was established in Amman in 1994, as one of 15 regional offices of UNIFEM worldwide. Today, the UNIFEM Arab States Regional Office mandate encompasses 17 Arab countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Algeria.



UNIFEM's work focuses on four main areas of immediate concern: Women's Economic

Security and Rights, Governance, Leadership and Peace Building, Women's Human Rights, and HIV/AIDS.

View the UNIFEM website: <http://www.unifem.org/jo/>

## Women Active in Iraqi Ministries

Story By Ron Eschmann

Iraq Project and Contracting Office - Washington

WASHINGTON — Approximately 46.7% of Iraqi women that make up the workforce are employed by the Iraqi Ministries, according to Sheryl Lewis, Director for Capacity Development for the Army's Iraq Project and Contracting Office.

"About 45,000 women are employed by Ministry of Municipalities & Public Works, constituting 60% of the Ministry," said Lewis. She added that at the Ministry of Water Resources, over 16,000 employees are women, which is approximately 31% of the ministry workforce. Currently, women represent a significant portion of the mid and junior level engineering and professional workforce in both ministries.

"There is a strong effort to provide Iraqi women with equal opportunities for jobs, career building, and business development," said Lewis. "Providing training programs that allow women to advance within government, not only offers added value to the ministries by providing equal opportunity in the job market, but it also ensures an inclusive and well-trained workforce," Lewis explained.

Through a series of seminars, over 1,700 Iraqi women have been trained for 87,000 hours in areas such as leadership, management, gender mainstreaming, basic computer technology, budget and finance, planning and organization, train-the-trainer, negotiation skills, and administration. The Water Sector Women's Initiative is a two-year program which began in March 2005.

"Capacity development is critical to providing the foundation for a smooth transfer of day today responsibility for completed projects to Iraqi management," said Lewis.

# Iraq Reconstruction Update

## Corporate Assistance: Microsoft Launches Initiative to Support Iraqi Women

Microsoft News/Global Summit Release

CAIRO — Microsoft Corp is working to support the economic empowerment of women in Iraq through an initiative to support women in technology.



At the Global Summit of Women recently, Microsoft Corp, in conjunction with the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), launched an initiative to support women in technology (WIT) in the Arab region. The Institute of International Education West Coast

Center will manage and implement the project in collaboration with local partners. The WIT program aims to afford women in Iraq the opportunity to enhance their marketable skills and gain economic independence.

The program will help build community centers that will work to provide women with both IT skills and general business skills and create a network of female organizations in Iraq. The program will be implemented initially in five additional countries: Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Microsoft anticipates the expansion of the program into other countries in the region. One of the main goals of the MEPI is to support education and empowerment for women throughout the Arab-speaking world, according to the Microsoft announcement.



Ms. Gerri Elliot from Microsoft announcing initiative.

Microsoft, an annual participant at the Global Summit of Women, has worked for 15 years to provide the means for the international exchange of best practices by leading female leaders towards advancing women's economic status worldwide. This year, Microsoft sent a multinational delegation to the summit.

"Each year the exchange of ideas and best practices among participants manifests itself in tangible projects that address specific women's needs. Our joint initiative to support women in technology truly reflects the spirit and intent of the summit by working to empower women in the Arab region," said Gerri Elliott, corporate vice president, Worldwide Public Sector of Microsoft.

The 2006 Summit took place in Cairo, Egypt and focused on accelerating women's economic development through the effective use of technology, and maximizing the benefit of cross-border business alliances. The Summit also featured a pre-Summit ministerial roundtable, which brings together women ministers of varied portfolios to discuss policies that have positively impacted women's economic status in their own countries

## U.S. Government-funded Programs for Iraqi Women



**Iraqi Women's Democracy Initiative, Department of State.** Established in 2004 and administered by the Office of the Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues at the Department of State, this Initiative oversees grants that have trained some 5,000 Iraqi women in several key areas including training in democracy, leadership, political activism, entrepreneurship, and media skills. Now in its second phase, the Initiative focuses on women's empowerment through economic growth; sustainability of independent women's NGOs; outreach to women in the grassroots; and leadership development for young women. Some of the grantees, and their work under the Initiative, include:



•National Democratic Institute (NDI): NDI provides technical assistance in support of political participation of Iraqi women. The Institute works with political parties and civil society organizations to develop strategies for including women in political structures. NDI also continues to build a network for women political activists that provides assistance across party lines and gives women the skills to present themselves as professional and competitive candidates. Website: <http://www.ndi.org/>



•The International Republican Institute (IRI): The IRI provides technical assistance and advice to women on campaign training, coalition building, and polling. Website: <http://www.iri.org/>



•The United States Institute of Peace (USIP): The Institute's work with Iraqi women is placed within the broader context of civil society, inclusion, and tolerance. USIP also provided training for over 1,200 Iraqi women on political participation, elections mechanisms, and conflict resolution. Website: <http://www.usip.org/>



**The National Endowment for Democracy (NED).** NED is a private, nonprofit, grant-making organization created in 1983 to strengthen democratic institutions around the world. It currently promotes women's rights in Iraq. Website: <http://www.ned.org/>

## Story Continued... Financial Independence

Over the past year, there have been numerous Women for Women International organized efforts to promote capacity building of Iraqi women's nongovernmental organizations, while also ensuring women's empowerment in economic and political arenas on a grassroots level.

Some of the program accomplishments made by the Iraqi staff include:

- Conducted men's training in 2006 that educated 300 men on the importance of women's rights and equality between men and women.
- Brought together nearly 100 Iraqi leaders, parliamentarians, and governing council members in conferences to help ensure women's participation in reconstruction.
- Offered job skills training in carpentry, hairdressing, traditional embroidery, carpet weaving, and rights awareness training to over 2,000 women.
- Conducted activities to strengthen the women's non-governmental organizations (NGO) community in Iraq. Provided 15 organizations with comprehensive NGO training, including all aspects of management and operations. Each NGO was awarded a start-up grant to help develop major projects.

### Raja's Story

We'll call her Raja. As a divorced mother, Raja had a number of responsibilities, including caring for her children, one with epilepsy, and another with respiratory problems. She also had health problems herself. Previously able to earn some income by selling fuel near a gas station, age and illness prevented her from continuing this work.

Once she started receiving direct financial aid and business skills training from Women for Women International, she was able to begin work that she could conduct from home. She made a deal with a supplier in a nearby province to purchase straw-made products at wholesale price, which she then resells. She has now doubled her initial goal and is regularly able to save the amount of two months rent from the profits.

For additional information:  
<http://www.womenforwomen.org>

### Male/Female Age Comparison:

0-14 years: 39.7% (male 5,398,645/female 5,231,760)  
15-64 years: 57.3% (male 7,776,257/female 7,576,726)  
65 years and over: 3% (male 376,700/female 423,295)

### Median age:

- total: 19.7 years
- male: 19.6 years
- female: 19.8 years



(2006 est.) Source: World Factbook

## Sewing Shop Provides Jobs and Hope

"If Kirkuk is a little Iraq, then our sewing shop is a little Kirkuk," said the director of a community organization that, with USAID assistance, opened a sewing shop near the northeastern Iraqi city of Kirkuk. "We are the littlest Iraq," he added. The sewing shop employs 35 widows and disabled people that represent a range of Iraq's diverse ethnic and religious groups.



Two women learn techniques of measuring at the sewing workshop. (USAID Photo)

The sewing shop is also used as a training center for aspiring tailors and seamstresses. Profits from the shop support the organization in its efforts to train and employ disenfranchised members of society. The organization has expanded its activities to include computer training

and lessons in maternal health. Other members of the community have received specialized healthcare through the center's support. The sewing shop also produces school uniforms at subsidized rates.

For years, Ban could not find employment and had been forced to pull her children from school so they could work. "It was painful," she said. Now she works for the shop during the day and sews out of her house in the evening. Her income supports her children's school fees and her husband's health treatment.

The response to the organization's advertisement in a local newspaper offering training in sewing was overwhelming, but within one year, they had trained 120 people. Although the shop could only hire 35 of those trainees, most of the others have now established their own cottage sewing businesses.

Funding for the sewing shop and the community organization comes from one of nearly 4,000 grants implemented throughout Iraq. (Story from USAID Web: <http://www.usaid.gov>)

## A Reconstruction Partnership

	<p><b>Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ALT)</b>  <a href="https://webportal.saalt.army.mil/main/aae.htm">https://webportal.saalt.army.mil/main/aae.htm</a>          Assistant Secretary: <i>The Honorable Claude M. Bolton, Jr.</i>          Principal Deputy to the ASA (ALT)/Director of Iraq Reconstruction and Program Management: <i>Mr. Dean Popps</i></p>
	<p> <b>US Army Corps of Engineers - Gulf Region Division</b> <a href="http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/index.html">http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/index.html</a>          Commanding General: <i>Brig. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, USA</i></p>
	<p><b>Joint Contracting Command – Iraq/Afghanistan</b>          JCC-IA provides responsive operational contracting support to the Chief of Mission and Multi-National Corps - Iraq to efficiently acquire vital supplies, services and construction in support of the Coalition Forces and the relief and reconstruction of Iraq.          Commander: <i>Maj. Gen. Darryl A. Scott, USAF</i></p>
	<p><b>Office of the Assistant Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Policy and Procurement), Iraq</b>          DASA(P&amp;P)-I provides the necessary administrative and contracting support to the Chief of Mission, Project and Contracting Office, Multi-National Forces, and supports the humanitarian relief, reconstruction, and security of Iraq.          ADASA(P&amp;P)-I: <i>Mr. Lee Thompson</i></p>
	<p><b>U.S. Department of State</b>          The State Dept. represents the U.S. overseas and conveys U.S. policies to foreign governments and international organizations through American embassies and consulates in foreign countries and diplomatic missions. The department negotiates and concludes agreements and treaties and coordinates and supports international activities of other U.S. agencies. It also hosts official visits, leads interagency coordination and manages the allocation of resources. <a href="http://www.state.gov/">http://www.state.gov/</a></p>
	<p><b>U.S. Agency for International Development</b>          USAID is an independent federal government agency that receives overall foreign policy guidance from the Secretary of State. USAID supports long-term and equitable economic growth and advances U.S. foreign policy objectives by supporting: economic growth, agriculture and trade; global health; and, democracy, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance.  <a href="http://www.usaid.gov/iraq">http://www.usaid.gov/iraq</a></p>

### For further Iraq reconstruction, transition, and sustainment information:

- U.S. Department of Commerce: <http://www.export.gov/iraq>
- U.S. Embassy in Iraq: <http://iraq.usembassy.gov>
- U.S. Central Command: <http://www.centcom.mil>
- Multi-National Force – Iraq: <http://www.mnf-iraq.com>
- Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq: <http://www.mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil/>



**Interested in receiving the publication weekly via email? To subscribe to the newsletter or send comments, please email us at: [irr@hqda.army.mil](mailto:irr@hqda.army.mil)**

#### Iraq Reconstruction Report Contacts

Director	Howie Lind, (703) 696-1423
USACE Gulf Region Division	Doug Garman, (202) 761-1806
Editor/Writer	Ron Eschmann
Metrics Manager	John Daley
Copy Editor/Metrics/Health Issues	Emily LaMarsh

*The Iraq Reconstruction Report is compiled and published by the Iraq Project and Contracting Office (Washington, DC), Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology, Office of Strategic Communications in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Past IRU issues can be found at:*

[http://www.dvidshub.net/index.php?script=pubs/pubs\\_show.php&id=18&name=Iraq%20Reconstruction%20Report](http://www.dvidshub.net/index.php?script=pubs/pubs_show.php&id=18&name=Iraq%20Reconstruction%20Report)