

Summary of DFID's work in Iraq 2011-2012

May 2011

Why we work in Iraq

DFID's bilateral programme in Iraq has been running since 2003. Iraq is a middle income country, with large reserves of oil and natural gas. Security has significantly improved since 2007, when sectarian violence was at its height, and Iraq now has its second democratically elected government. The country has the potential to deliver its own development over the next decade. But Iraq still faces significant challenges:

- 23% of the population live on less than \$2 a day.
- Iraq is ranked 166 out of 183 countries in the World Bank's 'Doing Business Survey' and 175 out of 178 countries in Transparency International's 'Corruption Perception Index'.
- 28% of 15 – 29 year old men are unemployed.
- There is huge inequality between men and women. Cultural and social restrictions, limited education, training and skills limit opportunities for women – only 17% of Iraqi women are part of the country's labour force.



The DFID funded Youth Employment Pilot Programme provided two months vocational training and ten months employment in the local private sector for 400 young people in Basra, as well as a model way of tackling unemployment that can be reproduced across the country.



DFID funded infrastructure projects have improved the water supply for over 1 million people – and increased the availability of electricity for over 600,000 people. The projects were completed in 2010 and were all delivered by Iraqi contractors – creating over 100,000 days of work for people in Southern Iraq.

The Government of Iraq has set out its vision for economic and governance reforms to address these challenges in its own National Development Plan 2010-2014. To help it implement these reforms, it is still reliant on donors for technical skills and advice.

Our programme in Iraq has been designed to support this, but other partners and multilateral agencies are the best placed to provide the advice Iraq needs for the next stage of its development. They have the networks and expertise in public financial management and the private sector. We therefore plan to close our bilateral operation in Iraq by the end of March 2012, although UK aid will continue to deliver results in Iraq until 2014.

What we will achieve

During 2011/12, UK aid will:

- Strengthen the Iraqi Government's ability to provide public services for its people, by helping to establish a Public Policy Bureau, and providing expert advice to help the government spend its budget more effectively.
- Support the government to tackle the problems to doing business, encourage outside investment, and implement Public Private Partnerships that will improve the delivery of basic services across the country.
- Equip young Iraqis with the skills they need to gain employment: 300 staff and students, including at least 75 women, will benefit from Higher Education partnerships and professional development opportunities.
- Continue to provide humanitarian assistance for over 1.1 million Iraqi children and their families, delivering access to health care for 250,000 boys and 250,000 girls, providing 325,000 Iraqis with access to safe drinking water, and helping 80,000 children access education services.



Our humanitarian assistance will help over 1.1 million Iraqi children and their families by delivering access to health care, education and safe drinking water.

We will continue to deliver development results in Iraq beyond the office closure through core funding to multilateral organisations like the World Bank, the UN and the European Union, funding for an International Monetary Fund (IMF) adviser for Iraq helping the Ministry of Finance to strengthen public financial management, and through support for demining. The UK Government Conflict Pool will continue to focus on stabilisation and conflict prevention work in Iraq.

Who we will work with

Our plans respond to and support the Iraqi Government's own aims to alleviate poverty in Iraq through economic and governance reforms. Although bilateral operations will close in Iraq by the end of March 2012, we will continue to support initiatives with the World Bank and the IMF until 2014. And Iraq's development will continue to be supported through core contributions to multilateral partners, through the joint DFID, Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence Conflict Pool, and through DFID's Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department.

How we will work

A DFID officer will work in Iraq as an integral part of the British Embassy until March 2012, to monitor ongoing projects and engage the Government of Iraq and international partners on development issues. Results, transparency and accountability will be our watchwords and we are determined to get value for money for every hard-earned taxpayer pound spent on development.

More information

For a detailed breakdown of DFID's Operational Plan for Iraq please visit www.dfid.gov.uk/iraq

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