



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

IRAQ

Education

September 2005



Secondary students received bags with school supplies from USAID, featuring the logo of the Ministry of Education.

EDUCATION SNAPSHOT

- 50,000 university students benefited from rehabilitated and newly equipped libraries, computer and science labs
- More than 8.7 million textbooks distributed
- Education Management Information Systems developed
- Higher Education and Development (HEAD) program brings together American and Iraqi universities to reestablish the excellence of Iraq's higher education system

OVERVIEW

Iraq has a strong tradition of academic excellence that is currently under grave threat. By the early 1980s, Iraq had achieved nearly universal primary school enrollment and a rapidly increasing literacy rate. Following two decades of wars and economic hardship brought on by misrule, schools fell into disrepair, enrollment dropped, and literacy levels stagnated.

Average government spending per student per year was \$110 in 2004 and \$144 in 2005. While significantly more than the average of \$47 spent per student per year during the 1990s, it is dwarfed by the \$620 spent per student per year in 1989.

The overall literacy rate is 65% nationwide, lower than Iraq's closest neighbors (Syria: 78%; Jordan 92%). The years of neglect have had a measurable impact: the literacy rate for Iraqis aged 15 to 24 is now lower than that of 25- to 34-year-olds. The situation is most dire for rural residents and Iraqi women and girls. Only 37% of rural women are literate, and only 30% of Iraqi girls of high school age are enrolled in school (compared with 42% of boys).

The Ministry of Education (MOE) is working to not only restore basic education capacity, but to reestablish Iraq's position as a regional academic leader. Since the 2003 conflict, USAID and other USG partners supported MOE goals by rehabilitating, in full or in part, more than 4,600 primary and secondary schools – repairing decaying infrastructure and supplying basic equipment. USAID also provided school supply kits to 2 million secondary school students, some of which are shown in the photograph above.

PROGRAMS

Now, USAID and the MOE are working together to build on these accomplishments and continue to improve access to quality education in Iraq at the primary, secondary, and university levels. USAID is helping to establish a series of model schools where Iraqi educators will implement new and innovative teaching methods while giving students access to improved equipment. USAID's goals are to increase enrollment, improve the quality of primary and secondary education, ensure that classrooms have sufficient supplies, facilitate community involvement, train teachers, implement accelerated learning programs, and establish partnerships between U.S. and Iraqi colleges and universities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- To date, **2,717 schools have been rehabilitated**, in full or in part, by USAID, some of which through direct contracting and grants to communities. When planned rehabilitations are complete in the next 3-6 months, USG and other international donors will have



Education (continued)



USAID/Iraq

rehabilitated 6,408 schools, 45% of the total 14,121 schools in Iraq. USAID alone will have rehabilitated 24% of Iraq's schools.

- Hundreds of thousands of desks, chairs, cabinets, and chalkboards have been distributed countrywide.
- 33,000 secondary school teachers and administrators (15,513 female), including 860 master trainers (264 females), were trained nationwide in 2004. Thus far this year, **over 6,800 secondary school teachers have been trained, progressing toward the goal of training 100,000 primary and secondary school teachers and administrators during 2005-06 school year.** Training is being conducted in English as a Second Language, computer use, science, and modern pedagogical techniques.
- Eighty-four primary and secondary schools (four in each governorate) are being established to serve as "centers of excellence." At these model schools, **teachers will receive five weeks of training**, and schools will be equipped with computer and science laboratories.
- More than 550 out-of-school youth completed a pilot **accelerated learning program**. An expanded program, targeting more than 11,000 out-of-school youth, will be implemented during the 2005-06 school year.
- More than **two million Secondary School Kits** and one million Primary School Kits have been distributed to school children, and sports equipment has been distributed to every primary and intermediate school.
- Early childhood learning television series is currently being developed.
- Satellite Internet access and computers were installed at the Ministry of Education and in all 21 Directorates of Education in Iraq. To improve resource management, an **Education Management Information System is being developed**.
- More than **8.7 million math and science textbooks** have been edited, printed, and distributed throughout Iraq.
- Partnerships have been established between five American and 10 Iraqi universities. Through these partnerships, more than 1,500 Iraqi faculty and students at 10 Iraqi universities have participated in workshops, trainings, conferences, and courses in Iraq, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States.
- At academic faculties in these ten Iraqi universities **USAID rehabilitated and equipped 23 specialist libraries, 23 computer labs, 20 specialist science labs, and 17 auditoriums or classrooms**, benefiting approximately 50,000 university students in colleges of law, engineering, medicine, archeology, and agriculture. In addition, books and electronic resources have been provided to university libraries.

IRAQ

Education Budget (FY02-06)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
2003	76
2004	90

Total 02-06 \$166 million