

RECONSTRUCTION BY PROVINCE

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SECTION

3

OVERVIEW OF PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT

As Iraqis sought to build on the success of provincial elections last January and regional elections this quarter, U.S.-funded projects in many provinces continued to migrate toward government capacity building and away from large brick-and-mortar construction. On the security front, Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) coordinated their movements with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) amid sporadic violence. Several PRTs expressed concern that their movements have become more restricted because of the June 30 redeployment of U.S. troops.

This quarter, the PRTs released a new assessment of the progress that each provincial government is making toward self-reliance, including rankings of progress in five categories—governance, rule of law, political development, economic development, and national unity (formerly called reconciliation)—using a tool called a Capability Maturity Model (CMM). Some metrics and targets are incorporated into the CMM, but the main input is subjective evaluation by the PRTs.⁴¹⁸ The most recent assessment covers the period from March 1 to May 31, 2009. The results of this latest assessment, including a comparison with the previous assessment, are shown in Figure 3.1.

The only province to achieve self-reliant status in any category was Wassit, which went from low developing to high developing in the governance category after firing an underperforming provincial director-general of electricity. Babylon scored well in governance because of increased transparency in decision-making, but scored poorly in political development because the new Provincial Council (PC) chairman did not effectively communicate with the PC. Missan began hiring based on technical competence rather than tribal or party affiliation, earning the province higher scores in political development and governance. The situation improved in Qadisiya in the national unity category after the new governor resolved differences with

tribal leaders through peaceful dialogue. Ninewa regressed in the national unity category because of an ongoing boycott of the PC by Kurds. The PRT downgraded Baghdad's rating for individual freedoms, a subcategory of political development in the CMM, because of a "chilling effect on individual expression and behavior" caused by the reappearance of "extremist militia elements."⁴¹⁹

Governance

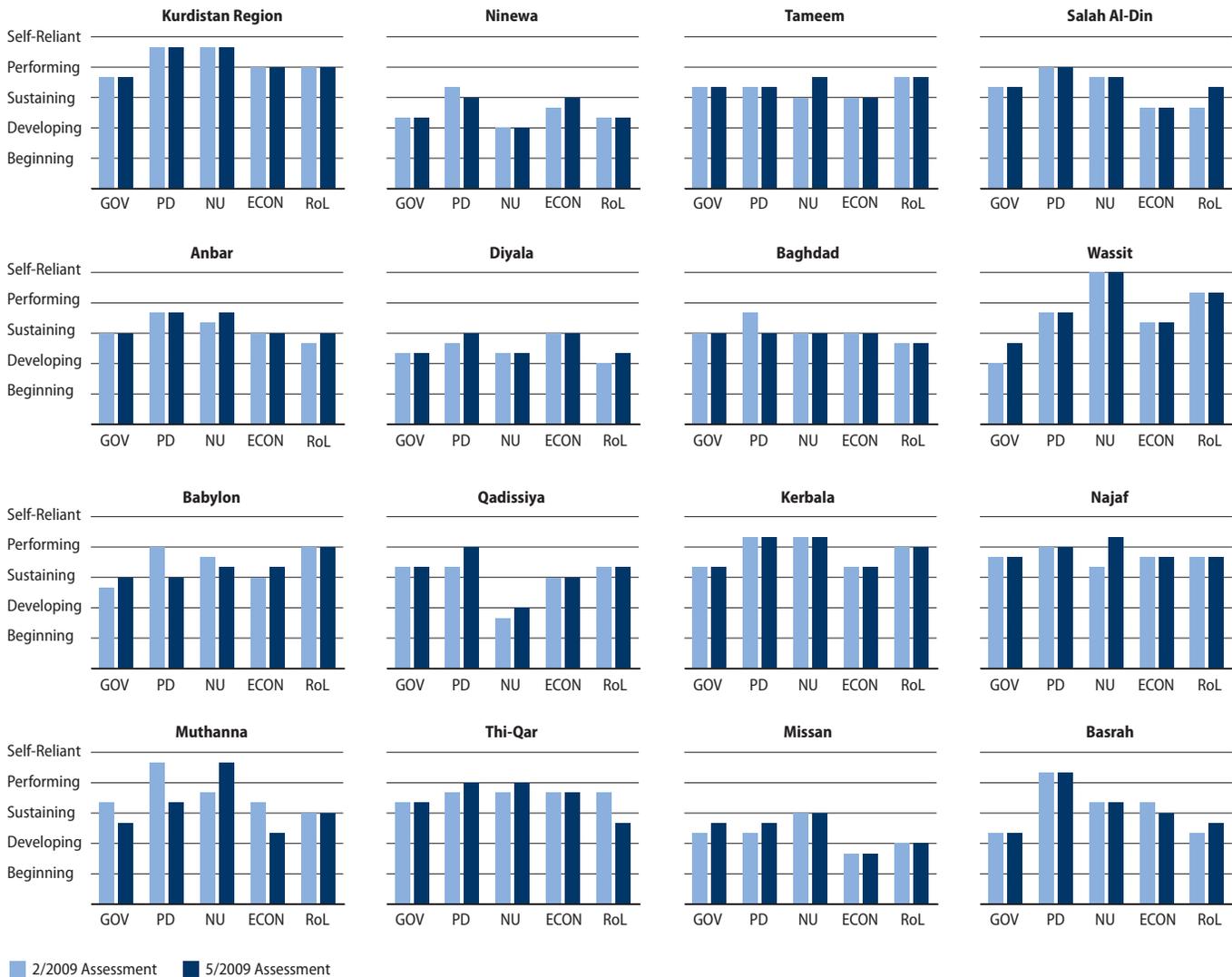
Preparations for the 2010 national elections, including reconfiguration of political alliances, continued to occur throughout Iraq's provinces this quarter. Registration proceeded smoothly in most provinces; in Tameem the PRT reported resistance to register to vote from Turkomen and Arab representatives.⁴²⁰ In Diyala, there was concern that registration may be hampered by ethnosectarian divisions. The issue of Tameem and the disagreement over internal boundaries affected politics in the northern-most provinces, including Tameem, Ninewa, Diyala, and Salah Al-Din, as well as Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, and Dahuk in the Kurdistan Region.

On July 25, 2009, Iraqis in the Kurdistan Region elected Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) candidate Masoud Barzani as president of the



The INL Judicial Security Team in Anbar province with the Marines from MNF-West performing a courthouse security assessment in Karmah. (US Embassy-Baghdad photo)

FIGURE 3.1
PRT MATURITY ASSESSMENTS, 2/2009 vs. 5/2009



Source: OPA, responses to SIGIR data call, 4/17/2009 and 10/1/2009.

Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in the first direct elections for that office.⁴²¹ Seventy-eight percent of the electorate turned out to vote.⁴²² Simultaneous elections for the Iraqi Kurdistan Parliament (IKP) yielded a victory for the ruling KDP in alliance with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). But the new Change List party, a splinter of the PUK headed by a former PUK deputy secretary general, won a large enough slice of the vote potentially to redefine politics in a region that has been dominated for decades by Masoud Barzani's KDP and the PUK, headed by Jalal Talabani.⁴²³

A simultaneous vote on a referendum to adopt a new constitution for the Kurdistan Region was initially set for election day. However, on July 6, the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) announced that the referendum question would not be included on the ballot.⁴²⁴ A separate nationwide referendum on the disputed province of Tameem remains on hold, and a date has not been set for district and sub-district elections in the provinces.

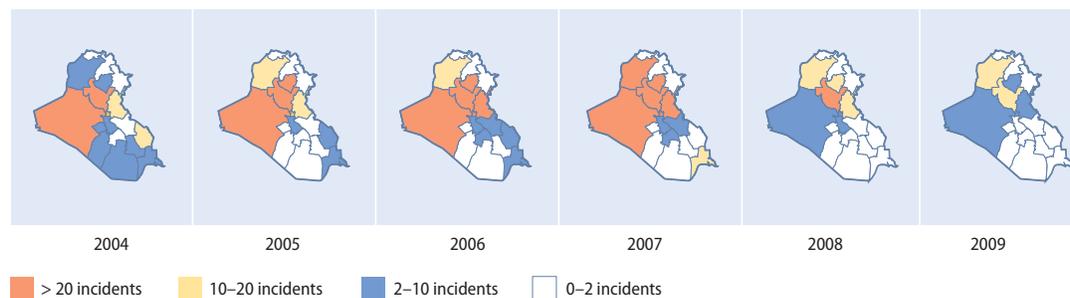
PRTs continued to work with most provincial governments to help them develop transparent and efficient methods of governing. USAID oversaw several programs designed to improve governance and economic development at the central, provincial, and district levels, including

helping to create human resources departments, mapping the life-cycle of strategic projects, and establishing rules on ethics and transparency. USAID's Tatweer program worked with ministerial directors general in 10 Iraqi ministries to improve management and administrative skills, as well as the delivery of government services. To date, USAID reported that Tatweer had completed 3,566 courses for 58,391 government workers. This quarter, Tatweer completed the work necessary to open satellite offices in four provinces. USAID's Iraqi Community-based Conflict Mitigation project (ICCM) supports peace-building efforts.⁴²⁵

Security and Rule of Law

DoD reported in early July that Iraq had the lowest level of violence in six years including decreases in U.S. military deaths, Iraqi Security Forces deaths, and ethnosectarian deaths.⁴²⁶ Several major bombings occurred this quarter in Ninewa, Anbar, Diyala, Tameem, and Babylon. In Baghdad, the Ministries of Interior and Finance were bombed.⁴²⁷ In July, the chief of the Baghdad Operations Command Advisory Team noted that the Arab-Kurd dispute over Iraq's internal boundaries continued

FIGURE 3.2
ANNUAL SECURITY INCIDENTS PER 10,000 PEOPLE, BY PROVINCE



Note: Incidents include attacks against Iraqi infrastructure and government organizations; bombs that are found and cleared (including IEDs and mines); detonated bombs; sniper, ambush, grenade, and other small arms attacks; and mortar, rocket, and surface-to-air attacks.

Sources: MNF-I, responses to SIGIR data call, 10/6/2008, 7/2/2009, and 9/30/2009; CENTCOM, response to SIGIR data call, 1/10/2009.

to create security challenges.⁴²⁸ Security for judges and lawyers remained a challenge in several provinces, particularly in Ninewa and Diyala.⁴²⁹ For trends in security incidents in the provinces since 2004, see Figure 3.2.

Infrastructure

Of the large infrastructure projects ongoing in the provinces, most were in the electricity, sewer, and water categories. Much of the effort has shifted to helping Iraqis sustain completed projects. Anbar, for instance, has no active brick-and-mortar projects supported with funding from the Quick Response Fund (QRF) or Iraq Rapid Assistance

Program (IRAP) and has a limited number funded by CERP. Some PRTs reported their Iraqi interlocutors had asked for large-scale “legacy” projects such as dams or medical centers.⁴³⁰ For a breakdown of infrastructure project costs by province and sector, see Table 3.1.

The provision of essential services—particularly the continuing inability of the government to meet demand for electric power—has become a leading campaign issue as Iraqis prepare for January 2010 elections. Although 80% of Iraqis live in provinces where the electricity supply-demand gap has narrowed over the past two years, the gap nation-wide remains greater than it was in 2003, and some provinces are better off than others. In 2007, the greatest disparity was between Baghdad

TABLE 3.1
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT COSTS, BY PROVINCE AND SECTOR
\$ Millions

PROVINCE	ELECTRICITY	WATER AND SANITATION	OIL AND GAS	TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS	GENERAL INFRASTRUCTURE	TOTAL
Dahuk	61.40	8.34	-	0.93	7.63	78.30
Erbil	102.54	201.67	0.08	5.07	2.46	311.82
Sulaymaniyah	49.03	15.28	-	2.98	1.06	68.35
Ninewa	118.74	126.87	0.08	66.06	6.97	318.71
Tameem	362.23	42.87	187.39	21.09	8.47	622.05
Salah Al-Din	311.19	59.51	71.52	65.75	7.37	515.35
Anbar	251.58	188.88	-	70.15	3.92	514.53
Diyala	80.66	143.47	2.89	23.79	6.24	257.05
Baghdad	1,504.22	755.31	40.60	282.17	341.68	2,923.97
Wassit	45.38	30.21	-	19.18	10.23	105.01
Babylon	121.65	47.63	-	36.01	3.49	208.78
Qadissiya	86.78	30.46	-	21.75	2.65	141.63
Kerbala	46.99	39.00	-	4.88	1.58	92.45
Najaf	72.79	60.84	-	14.26	4.43	152.31
Muthanna	15.02	189.79	0.07	19.12	3.87	227.87
Thi-Qar	106.67	399.69	0.43	21.42	13.06	541.26
Missan	76.31	20.26	0.06	14.06	6.32	117.01
Basrah	543.46	238.32	558.55	171.80	8.39	1,520.52
Nationwide & Regional	1,115.10	487.18	916.14	418.14	28.16	2,964.71
Total	5,071.73	3,085.58	1,777.81	1,278.60	467.97	11,681.69

Note: Data not audited. Numbers affected by rounding. This list of reconstruction projects is based on IRMS data, which is not fully accurate or complete. Project totals therefore do not reconcile with top-line obligations and expenditures provided by the agencies.

Source: IRMS, *Global Benchmark*, 10/9/2009.

and Anbar. In Baghdad, load served met 37% of estimated demand, compared with 89% in Anbar. That gap has narrowed, and this quarter both provinces were slightly below the national average of 68%. Only four provinces—Sulaymaniyah, Erbil, Basrah, and Diyala—received more than 80% of estimated demand, with Sulaymaniyah now ranking highest in its ability to meet demand, at 99%. Wassit ranked lowest at 51%.⁴³¹ For a comparison of electricity load served versus estimated demand in 2007 and 2009, see Figure 3.3.

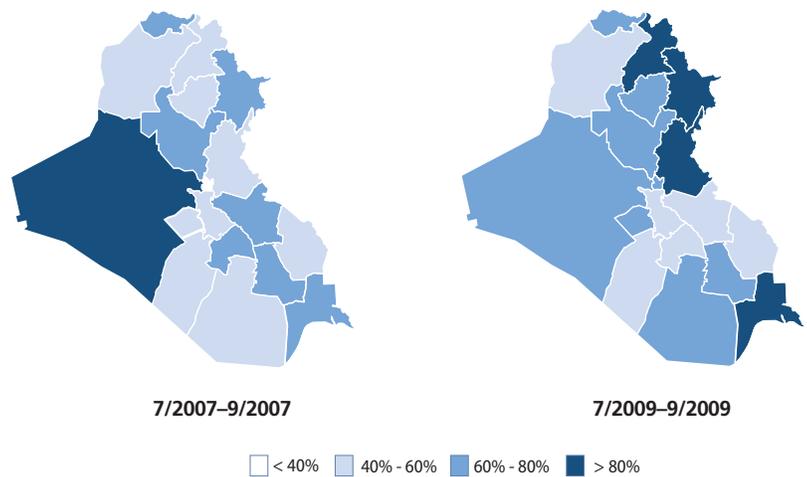
Economy

Provincial Investment Commissions (PICs), Iraqi governmental bodies associated with the National Investment Commission, have worked on tailoring development of local private enterprise or investment in state-owned enterprise to the specific economic circumstances and natural resources of their provinces. Anbar and Muthanna sought to develop oil initiatives, and several provinces sought to develop tourism. Most PRTs focused their efforts in two areas:⁴³²

- improving business environments by developing business centers and roundtables to attract local and foreign investors, as well as helping to create bank lending to small- and medium-sized businesses
- developing or implementing agricultural-improvements projects in such areas as animal husbandry and vaccination, and water-saving techniques for growing crops

USAID continued its efforts to stimulate provincial private sectors through its Tijara program, which provides grants to banks that loan to small- and medium-sized businesses, and assists with micro financing, among other projects. Inma programs concentrated on agribusiness development, including training, improving market systems, and

FIGURE 3.3
LOAD SERVED AS PERCENTAGE OF ESTIMATED DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY, BY PROVINCE, 2007 VS. 2009



Note: Load served is measured at the substation level and is the amount of electricity that enters the local distribution systems. Because of transmission losses that occur between power plants and substations, load served is less than total electricity supply.

Source: ITAO/ESD, *Electric Daily Performance Reports*, 7/1/2007-9/30/2009.



Iraqis in the Kurdistan Region line up to vote in presidential and parliamentary elections on July 25, 2009. (U.S. Embassy-Baghdad photo)

introducing new technologies to farmers. USAID reported that its Inma projects will generate 7,100 permanent jobs and more than \$120 million in gross revenue in 2009 and 2010.⁴³³ ♦

PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAMS

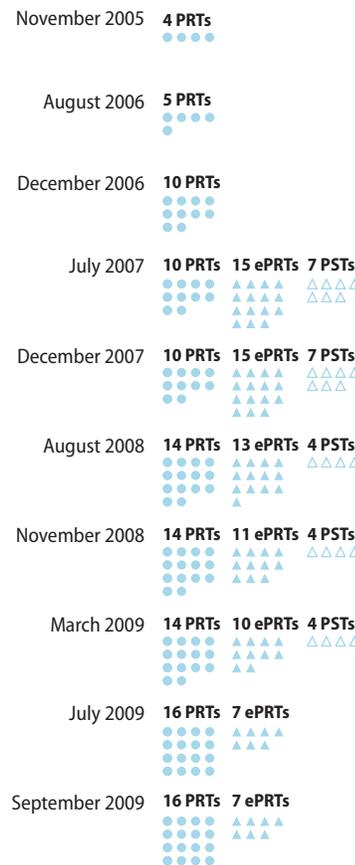
PRTs in Transition

The evolving U.S.-Iraqi relationship is affecting the security situation, as well as the roles of the 23 PRTs, ePRTs, and the Regional Reconstruction Team (RRT) conducting reconstruction activities in the provinces. RRT Erbil is the only regional team; each of the PRTs operates in a single province, and some used to operate out of Regional Embassy Offices (REOs), but all of the REOs have closed except Hilla in Babylon province. The Office of Provincial Affairs (OPA) has described the PRT work as critical to U.S. efforts to achieve a “stable, peaceful, united, and secure Iraq with a developing economy, participatory governance under the rule of law, and civil order.”³³⁴

This quarter, U.S. Embassy-Baghdad discussed plans to continue PRT teams in Iraq’s provinces for at least two more years. At some point in 2010–2011, some PRTs may relocate from provincial capitals to accomplish most of their work from regional hubs. PRT leadership will still be responsible for directing the implementation of policy and programs in their provinces.⁴³⁵ Under current planning, the number of PRTs will be reduced to 16 by August 2011 and to 6 by December 2011.⁴³⁶ This quarter OPA reported it was working with MNC-I and the U.S. Embassy-Baghdad to develop plans for PRT and ePRT drawdown and closures, including closing ePRTs or converting them to satellite offices of the partnered PRT not later than August 2010, reducing staff, and creating a timeline for the drawdown and closure of supporting FOBs and the related PRTs.⁴³⁷

OPA is focusing PRT resources in support of prioritized U.S. strategic interests in each province, and discretionary activities are being reduced. Although CERP is a DoD program, OPA noted that the PRTs were heavily involved in MNC-I’s CERP process, including the identification, coordination,

FIGURE 3.4
PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAMS,
11/2005–9/2009



Sources: GAO Report 09-86R, “Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan and Iraq,” 10/1/2008, pp. 4–5; DoS, *Iraq Status Report*, 8/9/2006, slide 29; SIGIR Audit 07-014, “Status of the Provincial Reconstruction Team Program Expansion in Iraq,” 7/28/2007, p. 2; SIGIR, *Quarterly Report and Semiannual Report to the United States Congress*, 1/30/2008, p. 81; SIGIR Audit 09-013, “Provincial Reconstruction Teams’ Performance Measurement Has Improved,” 1/28/2009, p. 2; SIGIR Audit 09-020, “Provincial Reconstruction Teams: Developing a Cost-tracking System Will Enhance Decision-making,” 4/28/2009, p. 2; U.S. Embassy-Baghdad, response to SIGIR data call, 7/6/2009; OPA, response to SIGIR data call, 10/1/2009.

and oversight of CERP projects. OPA reported its concern that reduced PRT and Multi-National Corps-Iraq resources in provinces could lead to problems in the administration of CERP-funded projects or could require reallocation of PRT support resources to maintain oversight of CERP projects. OPA reported it was taking a number of steps to reduce the potential problem, including adding a CERP control officer and coordinating with MNC-I to reduce CERP projects in advance of a PRT drawdown.⁴³⁸

For information about the PRT footprint over time, see Figure 3.4, and for current locations, see Figure 3.5.

As the transition of reconstruction management accelerates, U.S. Embassy-Baghdad has redefined the roles of the PRTs.⁴³⁹

- Support elections and act as a platform for the UN and other international organizations.
- Serve as “honest brokers” to mediate and manage communal tensions.
- Assist Iraqi civil society and governmental institutions in strengthening their ability to protect the rule of law, confront corruption, and deliver basic services.
- Support displaced persons.
- Encourage foreign investment and economic diversification.

PRT expenses are currently included in U.S. Embassy-Baghdad’s expenses. A process is underway to track expenses specifically earmarked for the PRTs. DoS reimburses DoD for additional support costs. Estimated 4th quarter reimbursements made by DoS were \$5 million, including personnel costs through July 1, 2009.⁴⁴⁰

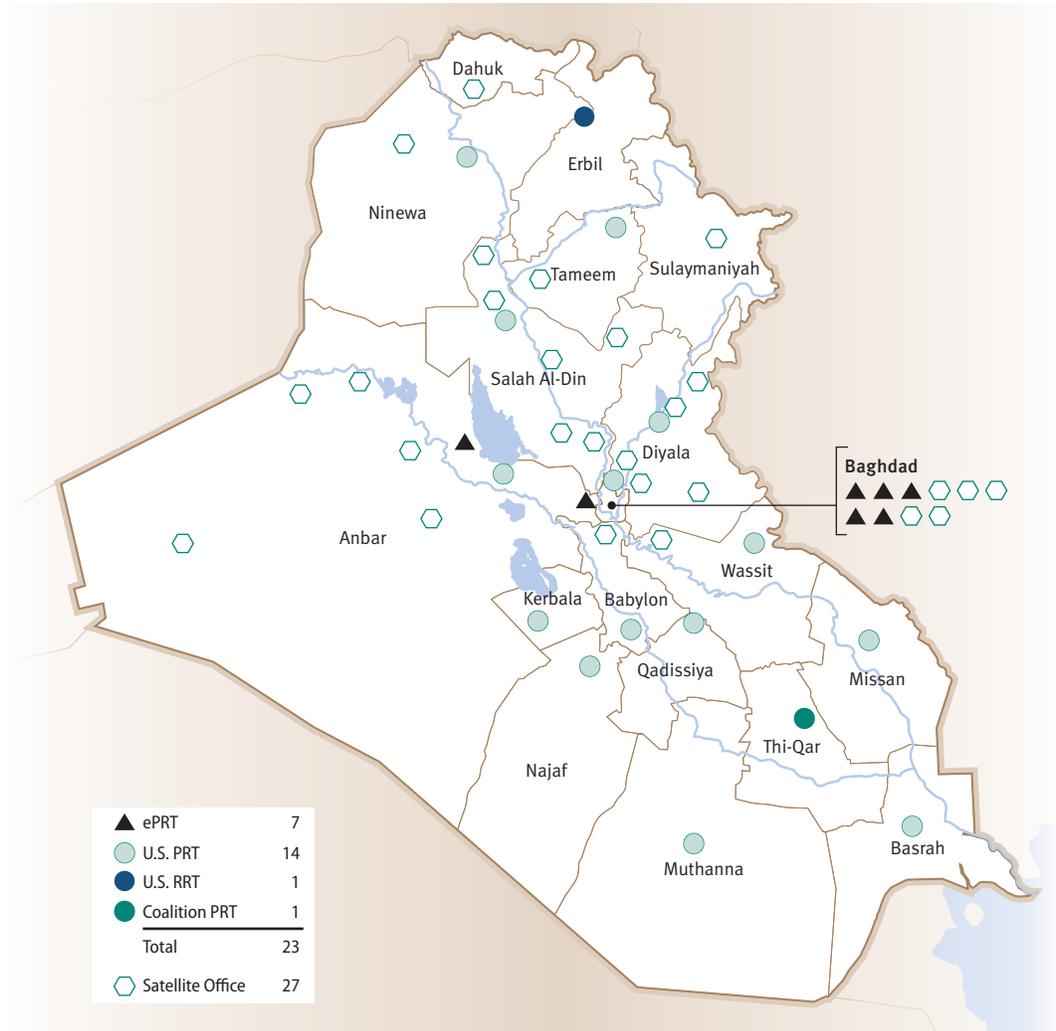
PRT-related Audits

In an audit released in August, DoS Office of the Inspector General raised several concerns about the costs and security risks of operating the PRTs and REOs. The report noted that there were roughly 4 support contractors for every staff member in 3 offices—or 1,027 support personnel for 265 staff. Moreover, RRT Erbil is housed in inadequate and unsafe offices in a suburb of Erbil City that DoS fire inspectors found lacking in proper electrical wiring and escape routes. The offices and living quarters are dispersed among local residences and businesses, which complicates security. DoS is reluctant to relocate the facilities or approve repairs until a decision is made as to whether the RRT will continue in the Kurdistan Region.⁴⁴¹

On August 16, 2009, USAID’s Office of the Inspector General (USAID OIG) released a separate audit of USAID’s IRAP. Funded by the ESF and USAID’s Civil Society and Conflict Mitigation Program, IRAP is designed to provide PRTs in Iraq with a flexible mechanism for funding the initiatives of community-based leaders and local Iraqi institutions to improve access to public services, education, and economic opportunities. USAID OIG found that IRAP is achieving its goal for at least 75% of grants it reviewed. However, the audit determined that some grants had not fully achieved their intended results and identified financial irregularities, such as fictitious invoices and indications of improper billing practices. As of March 31, 2009, approximately \$165 million had been obligated through the program, and \$64 million had been expended. The USAID OIG recommended improvements for monitoring procedures and controls that would ensure grants were executed properly through its implementing partner, Development Alternatives, Inc. It concluded that USAID had addressed these concerns.⁴⁴² ♦

PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAMS

FIGURE 3.5
PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM (PRT) FOOTPRINT, SEPTEMBER 2009



Source: U.S. Embassy-Baghdad, response to SIGIR data call, 10/2/2009.

PROVINCIAL PORTRAITS

The following pages provide snapshots of activities in each of Iraq's 18 provinces, beginning with the Kurdistan Region and its three provinces. Much of the information was provided to SIGIR by PRT leaders, but these snapshots also draw from information provided by U.S. brigade commanders, GRD, USAID, and others.

For a province-level comparison of key indicators, see Table 3.2. For details of U.S. reconstruction, governance, and rule-of-law projects in each province, as well as PRT observations, see the provincial portraits that follow.

TABLE 3.2
SELECTED COMPARISONS OF IRAQ'S PROVINCES

PROVINCE	POPULATION	AREA (SQ KM)	POP. DENSITY (PEOPLE/ SQ KM)	ETHNORELIGIOUS COMPOSITION				IDPS RETURNED (FROM JANUARY TO AUGUST, 2009)	ELECTRICITY DATA (7/1/2009–9/30/2009)			
				SHIA	SUNNI	KURD	OTHER		AVERAGE DAILY ELECTRICITY LOAD SERVED (MW)	AVERAGE DAILY ESTIMATED ELECTRICITY DEMAND (MW)	AVERAGE DAILY DEMAND MET	LOAD SERVED (MW PER 1,000,000 PEOPLE)
Dahuk	895,000	6,553	137	0%	0%	90%	10%	-	132	203	65%	147
Erbil	1,409,000	15,074	93	0%	0%	95%	5%	30	356	411	86%	252
Sulaymaniyah	1,574,000	17,023	92	0%	0%	95%	5%	10	352	357	99%	224
Ninewa	2,820,000	37,323	76	5%	55%	15%	25%	3,160	491	851	58%	174
Tameem	1,129,000	9,679	117	15%	20%	40%	25%	60	222	324	68%	196
Salah Al-Din	1,158,000	24,075	48	3%	96%	1%	0%	60	275	385	71%	238
Anbar	1,427,000	138,228	10	5%	95%	0%	0%	670	219	329	67%	154
Diyala	1,323,000	17,685	75	25%	55%	10%	10%	39,170	196	236	83%	148
Baghdad	6,995,000	4,555	1,536	70%	29%	0%	1%	69,210	1,718	2,571	67%	246
Wassit	1,056,000	17,153	62	90%	5%	5%	0%	720	155	304	51%	147
Babylon	1,574,000	5,119	307	85%	15%	0%	0%	800	240	425	56%	152
Qadisiya	1,033,000	8,153	127	98%	1%	0%	1%	-	150	253	59%	146
Kerbala	902,000	5,034	179	85%	15%	0%	0%	30	164	273	60%	182
Najaf	1,113,000	28,824	39	99%	1%	0%	0%	-	216	375	58%	194
Muthanna	650,000	51,740	13	98%	2%	0%	0%	-	137	202	68%	210
Thi-Qar	1,687,000	24,075	70	100%	0%	0%	0%	10	289	405	71%	171
Missan	944,000	16,072	59	95%	1%	0%	4%	80	145	273	53%	154
Basrah	2,408,000	19,070	126	85%	15%	0%	0%	600	806	929	87%	335

Note: Data not audited. Numbers affected by rounding. U.S. ongoing and completed project costs include "Nationwide" projects, not identified by province; IRMS *Global Benchmark* project cost totals do not equal total expenditures found in the Funding section because not all projects are reported in IRMS.



Farmer in Tameem province suits up to look at the beehives he received through a USAID grant. (2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs photo)

A woman carries harvested winter wheat near Tarmiyah. (MNF-I photo)

2009 IRAQI PROVINCIAL CAPITAL BUDGET				U.S. ONGOING AND COMPLETED PROJECT COSTS (\$ MILLIONS)						SECURITY INCIDENTS		
BUDGET ALLOCATION (\$ MILLIONS)	BUDGET ALLOCATION PER CAPITA (\$)	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES (\$ MILLIONS)	% EXPENDED	CERP	ESF	IRRF	ISFF	TOTAL	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (PER CAPITA)	AVERAGE NUMBER OF ATTACKS PER WEEK (PREVIOUS QUARTER)	AVERAGE NUMBER OF ATTACKS PER WEEK (CURRENT QUARTER)	% CHANGE FROM PRIOR QUARTER
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.2	21.1	95.7	7.9	136.9	152.9	0.5	0.2	-68%
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80.9	36.1	338.7	42.6	498.3	353.6	0.2	0.4	90%
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.3	30.1	163.5	16.0	221.9	141.0	0.3	0.0	-100%
236	84	0	0%	212.9	19.9	454.2	363.5	1,050.5	372.5	65.5	53.1	-19%
99	88	54	55%	183.6	110.4	648.6	142.9	1,085.5	961.5	20.9	19.8	-5%
97	84	17	18%	263.2	93.8	407.3	106.9	871.2	752.4	25.2	25.8	3%
112	78	78	70%	428.6	81.4	512.4	840.3	1,862.7	1,305.3	14.5	9.2	-37%
104	79	24	23%	217.6	13.4	455.3	246.3	932.7	705.0	24.7	17.8	-28%
551	79	182	33%	1,165.9	779.0	3,202.0	1,612.7	6,759.6	966.3	74.8	63.1	-16%
91	86	36	40%	56.0	26.5	300.9	64.7	448.1	424.4	1.5	1.1	-32%
134	85	55	41%	178.2	32.6	194.9	20.5	426.3	270.8	3.9	5.1	29%
86	83	47	54%	76.1	15.8	140.5	27.4	259.7	251.4	0.4	0.9	128%
78	86	23	29%	55.0	16.2	86.6	1.0	158.9	176.1	0.3	0.4	14%
93	84	29	32%	42.2	17.4	182.2	29.6	271.4	243.8	1.2	0.4	-70%
56	86	16	28%	28.1	13.5	256.8	2.6	301.0	463.0	0.2	0.3	71%
143	85	69	48%	46.5	34.1	734.7	62.4	877.8	520.3	1.6	1.6	-3%
80	85	30	37%	27.0	26.0	169.5	38.2	260.8	276.2	3.4	2.4	-30%
201	83	50	25%	256.3	108.8	1,557.8	152.9	2,075.8	862.1	5.2	4.1	-21%

Sources:
 Population—U.S. Embassy-Baghdad, response to SIGIR data call, 3/29/2009.
 Area—OCHA, Governorate Profiles, 3/2009–7/2009.
 Sect—U.S. Embassy-Baghdad, responses to SIGIR data call, 3/29/2009, 7/6/2009, and 7/16/2009.
 IDPs—U.S. Embassy-Baghdad, response to SIGIR data call, 10/3/2009.
 Security Incidents—MNF-I, response to SIGIR data call, 9/30/2009.
 2009 Provincial Budgets—MNF-I, response to SIGIR data call, 6/30/2009; MNC-I, response to SIGIR data call, 10/13/2009.
 U.S. Project Costs—IRMS, *Global Benchmark*, 10/9/2009.
 Electricity Data—ITAO/EFC, *Electric Daily Performance Reports*, 7/1/2009–9/30/2009.

The Kurdistan Region

The Kurdistan Region comprises Iraq's three northernmost provinces—Erbil, Dahuk, and Sulaymaniyah. The population of the region, an estimated 3.9 million (12.9% of Iraq's population), is dominated by ethnic Kurds. The three provinces are relatively stable and secure and offer oil, agriculture, and tourism as economic drivers that support the region internally and serve as an export base.⁴⁴³ The host province of RRT Erbil receives some of the highest CMM ratings in Iraq for governance, political development, national unity, economic development, and rule of law.⁴⁴⁴

The KRG governs the three provinces, and 35 representatives from the Kurdistan Region are members of the GOI's Council of Representatives (CoR). The region also elects its own president and parliament, called the Iraqi Kurdistan Parliament (IKP), formerly known as the Kurdistan National Assembly. Elections in the Kurdistan Region were held this quarter on July 25, 2009.

The KRG's relationship with the GOI has been strained by disagreements over the status of internally disputed boundaries (IDB) in provinces, including Tameem, that lie outside the boundaries of the Kurdistan Region. The relationship was further affected this quarter by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's call for amending Iraq's constitution to strengthen the central government and statements by KRG President Masoud Barzani favoring a census and referendum, as provided by Iraq's constitution, prior to resolving IDBs.⁴⁴⁵

Governance

The Kurdistan Region, like the rest of Iraq, is preparing for national elections set for January 2010. By September 2009, 15 parties in the region had registered to run in the CoR elections. The region's two main parties, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), recently united as the Kurdistan List.



Iraqis in the Kurdistan Region line up to vote in presidential and parliamentary elections on July 25, 2009. (OPA photo)

They are expected to present a united front in the 2010 elections, minimizing their differences and attempting to draw the newly formed PUK break-away party—the Change List—into some kind of alliance as a strategy to strengthen Kurdish positions in disagreements with the GOI.⁴⁴⁶

This quarter, KRG elections dominated U.S. support activities. Throughout the region, RRT staff members acted as election monitors and supported training sessions organized by the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI).⁴⁴⁷ Iraqis in the Kurdistan Region engaged in self-funded capacity-building initiatives as well. Before the July elections, outgoing KRG Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani launched an initiative to review government capabilities and create an action plan to combat corruption and inefficiency.⁴⁴⁸ PricewaterhouseCoopers partnered with the KRG on this “good governance and transparency initiative.”⁴⁴⁹

KRG Election Results

On July 25, 2009, longtime KDP leader Masoud Barzani was elected president of the KRG with about 70% of the vote. GOI President Jalal Talabani's brother-in-law, Halo Ibrahim Ahmed, came in third with 3.5% of the vote—far behind the newly formed Change List presidential candidate Kamal



PRT voter education mobile teams reach out to Iraqi farmers ahead of the July 25, 2009, elections in the Kurdistan Region. (OPA photos)

Mirawdeli, who received about 25% of the vote.⁴⁵⁰ For presidential election results, see Table 3.3.

In simultaneous parliamentary elections, the united KDP-PUK Kurdistan List captured 53% of the seats, while the Change List received about 25% of the votes cast.⁴⁵¹ The KDP’s strong showing in both presidential and parliamentary elections solidified its power in the Kurdistan Region. To a lesser extent, the influence of the PUK was also preserved by its alliance with the KDP following the split within its ranks that resulted in the creation of the Change List.

Following the elections, the new parliament elected PUK member Barham Saleh (recently Deputy Prime Minister of the GOI) as prime minister—an indication of the PUK’s power in the alliance despite its reduced numbers. Saleh

replaced Nechirvan Barzani (a nephew of Masoud Barzani), who had served as prime minister since 2006. It remains to be seen what influence the Change List—whose power base is principally in Sulaymaniyah—will have on the two established Kurdistan parties.

For parliamentary election results, including open seats and seats reserved for minority parties, see Table 3.4.

The Change List and the PUK Split

The Change List was created by Nawshirwan Mustafa following his resignation as deputy secretary-general of the PUK in 2006, but the seeds of dissent began much earlier, as the Kurdistan Region gained a greater degree of independence following the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Mustafa took on an active role

TABLE 3.3
JULY 2009 KRG PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS

NAME	AFFILIATION	PERCENTAGE OF VOTES WON
Masoud Barzani	KDP Alliance	70%
Kamal Mirawdeli	Change List	25%
Halo Ibrahim Ahmed	Progress List	3.5%
Safeen Sheikh Mohammed	Independent	1.4%
Hussein Karmiani	Independent	<0%

Source: KRG, “Electoral Commission Announces Final Results of Kurdistan Region elections,” www.krg.org, 9/15/2009.

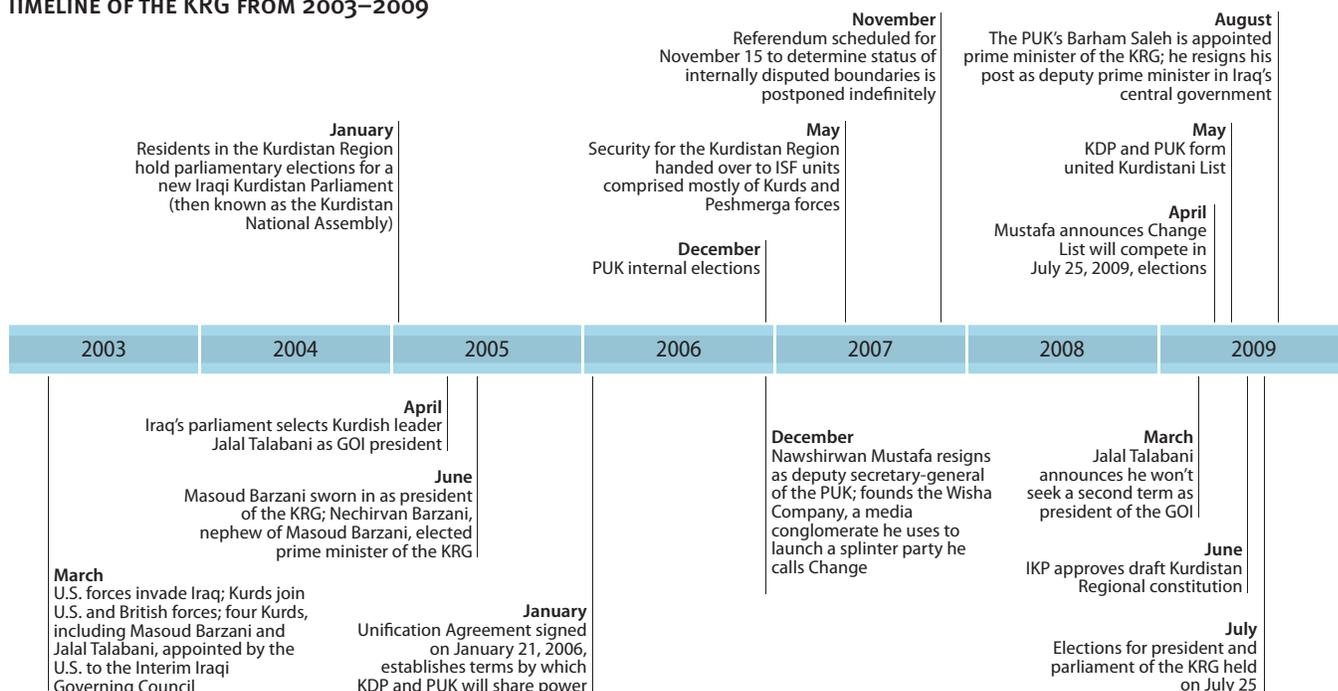
RECONSTRUCTION BY PROVINCE

TABLE 3.4
JULY 2009 KRG PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION RESULTS

	PARTY	AFFILIATION	PERCENTAGE OF VOTES WON	SEATS IN PARLIAMENT
Open Seats	Kurdistani List	KDP-PUK Alliance	57%	59
	Change List	PUK Splinter Group	24%	25
	Services and Reform List	Islamic Coalition	12%	13
	Islamic Movement	Moderate Islamic party	>2%	2
	Social Justice and Freedom	Secular, progressive party	>1%	1
	Total Open Seats			
Seats Reserved for Minority Groups	Turkoman Democratic Movement	Turkoman	>2%	3
	Turkoman Reform List	Turkoman	>1%	1
	Turkoman Erbil List	Turkoman	>1%	1
	Chaldean Assyrian Syriac Council	Inter-Christian Coalition	>2%	3
	Al-Rafidain List	Assyrian Christian Coalition	>2%	2
	Aram Shahin Dawood Bakovian	Armenian Christian	>1%	1
Total Seats Reserved for Minority Groups				11
Total Seats in Parliament				111

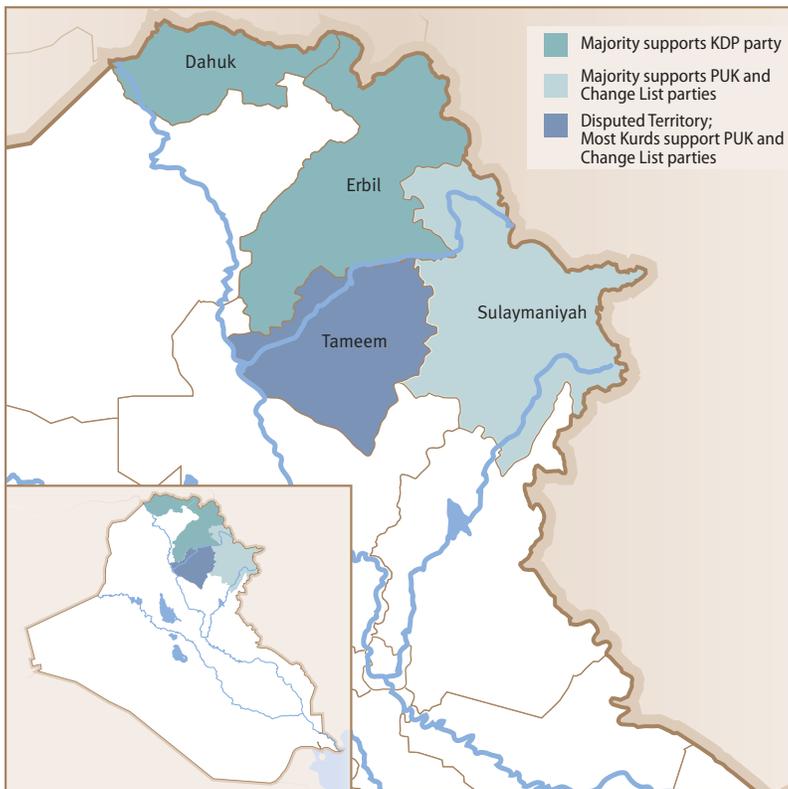
Source: KRG, "Electoral Commission Announces Final Results of Kurdistan Region elections", www.krg.org, 9/15/2009.

FIGURE 3.6
TIMELINE OF THE KRG FROM 2003–2009



Sources: CRS, "The Kurds in Post-Saddam Iraq," 2/5/2008, pp. 2–4; SIGIR, *Quarterly Report and Semiannual Report to the United States Congress*, 7/2009.

FIGURE 3.7
**DOMINANT POLITICAL PARTY INFLUENCE IN THE KURDISTAN REGION
 AND TAMEEM PROVINCE**



Source: SIGIR analysis, KRG, “Change in the Air,” www.investorsiraq.com, accessed 10/16/2009; KRG, “Electoral Commission announces final results of Kurdistan Region elections,” www.krg.org, accessed 9/15/2009.

representing the KRG’s position in discussions with the GOI. Dissension in the PUK ranks grew further after the 2005 elections in the Kurdistan Region and again in 2006 during the PUK’s internal elections. In 2006 Mustafa founded the Wisha Company, a media conglomerate, which he used as a platform to spread his campaign message of change.⁴⁵²

In April 2009, Mustafa announced that his PUK splinter movement would run as an independent party, called Change. Most of his support comes from Sulaymaniyah province, the traditional stronghold of the PUK. The PUK is also heavily supported in Tameem, located south of the Kurdistan Region. For a breakdown of party influence by province, see Figure 3.7, and for a historical timeline of KRG leaders since 2003, see Figure 3.6.

Constitutional Impasse in the Kurdistan Region

The KRG may come under pressure to change the most recent draft of the constitution governing the Kurdistan Region, a controversial document that lays claim to disputed territories outside the boundaries of the Kurdistan Region, as a result of the elections. On June 24, seven members walked out of a (pre-election) parliamentary vote on the draft; 96 of 111 members of the IKP favored it.⁴⁵³ Five days later, 50 members of the CoR signed a petition criticizing the draft constitution, saying it was not compatible with Iraq’s federal constitution. One Kurdish member of the CoR urged leaders of the GOI and the KRG to open a national dialogue on the sensitive subject.⁴⁵⁴ The nature of the long-simmering dispute suggests the two sides are unlikely to reach an agreement anytime soon on recommendations for a resolution to disputed territories, including Tameem.⁴⁵⁵

Governance Capacity Building

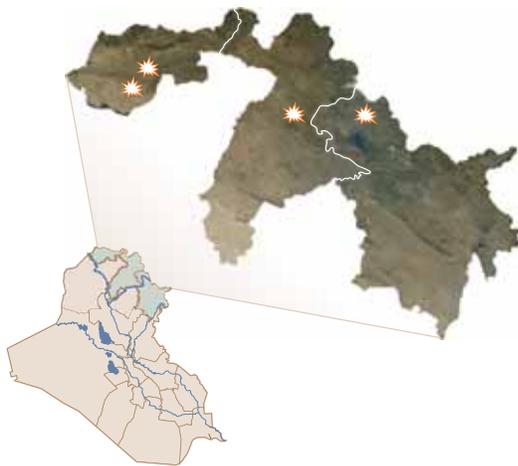
The United States funded several other projects in the Kurdistan Region this quarter:

- A \$20,000 Quick Response Fund (QRF) grant to the “Kids’ House,” a non-religious school and activity center for internally displaced children whose families fled violence in Baghdad and Ninewa provinces.⁴⁵⁶
- The Sabeen Mandaean Cultural Center received a \$25,000 QRF grant for educational materials and musical instruments. Many members of the Sabeen Mandaean community in Erbil are IDPs from southern Iraq.⁴⁵⁷
- In September, the PRT opened the 12-classroom Zaryland School in Dahuk City. Funded by \$1.1 million of the ESF, this school will host classes in English and serve as a magnet school for more than 1,000 exceptional students.⁴⁵⁸

Security and Rule of Law

Security in the Kurdistan Region was stable this quarter with only sporadic outbreaks of violence reported mostly in the lead-up to regional elections. There were four incidents in which two

SECURITY INCIDENTS IN THE KURDISTAN REGION (Resulting in Two or More Deaths) 7/1/2009–10/15/2009



or more people died. In neighboring disputed territories, however, the situation remains tense—particularly in Ninewa province, where a plan was put forth to invite Kurdish Peshmerga forces to patrol joint checkpoints with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). RRT Erbil reported that KRG government officials had urged the establishment of the joint checkpoints. This proposal prompted an outcry from Arab provincial officials in Ninewa who opposed allowing the Peshmerga to operate these checkpoints with the ISF.⁴⁵⁹

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Kurdistan Region hosts 39% of IDP families belonging to ethnoreligious minorities, including Kurds. Almost half of IOM-assessed IDPs in Dahuk are Christian. Most hail from Ninewa and Baghdad, and more than half reported that they would prefer to resettle permanently in the province.⁴⁶⁰ Arab Sunnis and Kurds who fled their homes after being targeted for ethnosectarian reasons also constitute some of the IDP population in the region. Many IDP families are living in tent camps, and 10% are female-headed households.⁴⁶¹



Exodus from the village of Qaladze (left) during the al-Anfal Campaign in 1988; Qaladze (right) as it looks today. (old photo, courtesy of the KRG; recent photo, SIGIR)

Qaladze: A Story of Perseverance On June 26, 1989, Saddam Hussein's troops destroyed the city of Qaladze as part of the notorious al-Anfal campaign to punish Iraqi Kurds for their support of Iran. The Iraqi Army dynamited and bulldozed the town's houses, stores, schools, and hospitals. The original 70,000 residents either fled to Turkey or Iran, or were forcibly moved to settlements where they could be closely monitored. During this period, some residents simply disappeared. Twenty years later, SIGIR found the city of Qaladze fully rebuilt and thriving with multiple-story buildings and paved roads.



Kurds receive crutches and wheelchairs from a QRF-funded program to aid victims of war and torture. (OPA photo)

The RRT's Rule-of-Law (RoL) section helped to establish a Justice Training Institute that aims to provide training and continuing education for judges and lawyers in the region. Elsewhere, RoL continued in its efforts to create a legal curriculum at the region's law schools, but plans to develop a 10-year road map for legal reforms including linkages between the KRG and GOI judiciary, were on hold awaiting QRF funding.⁴⁶²

USAID developed a gender-based violence tracking and documentation system to identify

how victims are negatively impacted by laws and practices that discriminate against women, as well as laws that are protective but widely ignored.⁴⁶³

Infrastructure

According to the KRG, the Kurdistan Region’s first privately owned oil refinery began operating in Erbil this quarter.⁴⁶⁴ On July 18, the prime minister’s office also announced that the central processing station and refinery had opened at the Khurmala fields.⁴⁶⁵ Among the notable ongoing U.S.-supported brick-and-mortar projects were:

- Erbil Emergency Hospital (completion expected in April 2010)—the project is designed to add 100 beds, more than doubling capacity for emergency treatment.⁴⁶⁶
- Zakho Emergency Hospital in Dahuk—targeted for completion in October 2009, the hospital will provide 30 beds and become the primary access point for emergency cases in the province.⁴⁶⁷
- Phase I of Fort Suse Prison in Sulaymaniyah—targeted for completion in October, 2009, the prison will relieve an acute shortage of prison space in the province.⁴⁶⁸

SIGIR published three inspections of projects in the Kurdistan Region this quarter (for details, see Section 4 of this Report):

SIGIR issued an inspection report on the Chamchamal Correctional Facility, a \$29 million U.S.-funded prison located in Sulaymaniyah province that was turned over to the Iraqis last March. In September, the prison was opened, and 360 inmates were transferred to the facility from a Baghdad prison following a prisoner riot. SIGIR found that the Iraqi Ministry of Finance had allocated \$11.1 million per month to run the facility and that its operations were being overseen by the KRG. SIGIR’s report contained no recommendations for corrective action.⁴⁶⁹

A SIGIR inspection of the Orphanage and Senior Assisted Living Center in Erbil found adequate construction with some minor safety issues

U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN THE KURDISTAN REGION

\$ Millions

SECTOR	TOTAL
Electricity	212.97
Water and Sanitation	225.29
Oil and Gas	0.08
Transportation and Communications	8.98
General Infrastructure	11.15
Total	458.47

noted that were corrected. SIGIR’s report did not contain any recommendations for additional corrective action. The \$3.7 million ESF-funded center will provide a modern, safe, and comfortable living space for orphans and senior citizens, including 345 children and 60 senior citizens.⁴⁷⁰

A SIGIR inspection of the partially completed Qaladze Abattoir (slaughterhouse) this quarter found that the contractor had already taken corrective action to the construction deficiencies previously found, and the completed project met the construction standards of the contract.⁴⁷¹

Economy

The region is rich in oil, but the absence of a hydrocarbon agreement with the GOI has tempered efforts to exploit oil resources. This quarter, disputes over revenue rights with Iraq’s central government affected extraction agreements with foreign companies as the central government threatened to blacklist firms doing business with the KRG. The dispute has also held up payments to international firms exporting oil from the Kurdistan Region.⁴⁷²

The KRG has marketed itself as a secure and business-friendly location within Iraq.⁴⁷³ This quarter, President Barzani met with Egypt’s investment minister and sent an economic delegation to Britain.⁴⁷⁴ Deals were struck with several small- and medium-sized oil firms in Canada, Australia, Britain, and Turkey, with the KRG reportedly seeking equity shares in some of the ventures rather than operational involvement for local oil firms.⁴⁷⁵

Although the new oil deals could increase production and boost the local economy, the *Economist* Intelligence Unit (EIU) has forecast that disputes with the central government over oil contracts and royalties are likely to continue to delay exports.⁴⁷⁶

Among the U.S.-funded activities supporting economic development this quarter, USAID's Inma program reported these activities:⁴⁷⁷

- small business development courses for about 40 women in Erbil province working in the dairy industry (courses for 120 total are planned)
- funding a beef and lamb feedlot in Dahuk province to speed the growth of calves and lambs to more efficiently supply the Iraqi market with more red meat
- training for farmers in drip irrigation methods

Ninewa

Governance

Ninewa's boundaries are in dispute with Dahuk and Erbil provinces of the Kurdistan Region.⁴⁷⁸ The province's ethnoreligious demographic mix has led to tensions between Arabs and Kurds with a significant influence on provincial politics and security.⁴⁷⁹ Despite these obstacles, the PRT organized a successful first dialogue between Arab and boycotting Kurdish members of the Provincial Council (PC).⁴⁸⁰

Members of the Kurdish-backed Ninewa Fraternal List (NFL) continued their boycott of the PC in response to the lack of a power-sharing agreement with the majority al-Hadbaa Gathering after the provincial election.⁴⁸¹ During the quarter, the PRT worked with both sides in an effort to get the NFL to end its boycott. In addition, the PRT coordinated with U.S. forces to garner political support for a proposal to include the Kurdish Peshmerga, the ISF, and U.S. forces in joint patrols of disputed areas of the province. In August, Peshmerga forces, which operate in the Kurdistan Region, were poised to man joint patrols with the ISF but the central government raised concerns



PRT Ninewa joins a Ramadan "Iftar" dinner with members of several groups in the province. (OPA photo)

about command and control, delaying implementation of the initiative.⁴⁸²

Soldiers and police who were legal residents of the Kurdistan Region but who are stationed in Ninewa cast absentee ballots in the July 25, 2009, presidential and parliamentary elections in the Kurdistan Region. The PRT monitored the elections. The PRT also talked regularly to Kurdish leadership in the province to address other cross-provincial issues. In September, the PRT sponsored a Ramadan feast that brought opposing factions together, including dozens of political, military, and business leaders from different ethnoreligious groups.⁴⁸³

Security and the Rule of Law

PRT Ninewa reported that the security situation remained "kinetic and unpredictable." Most security incidents took place in the northeastern section of the province, in territory claimed by both Kurds and Arabs. The PRT reported that the unstable political environment had created an insecure band of territory that insurgents were able to exploit, carrying out a series of high-profile bombings this quarter.⁴⁸⁴

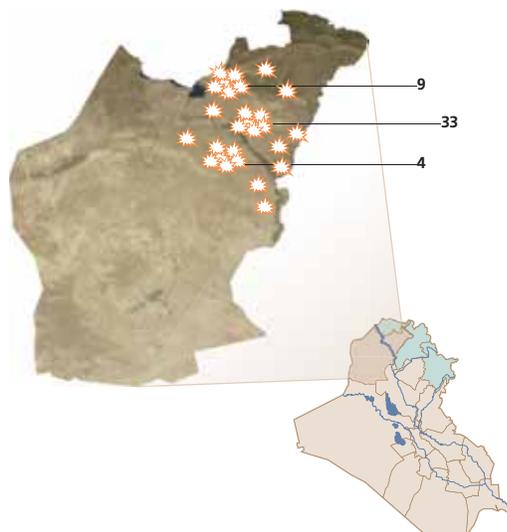
Armed groups targeted political opponents. In August, gunmen reportedly killed a member of the Al-Hadbaa Party.⁴⁸⁵ Much of the violence was directed toward minorities: On August 10, 2 truck bombs detonated in an ethnic Shabak Shia area

under de facto control of the KRG, killing 41. Three days later, 2 suicide bombers blew up a café in an ethnic Yazidi enclave, also under KRG control, killing 21.⁴⁸⁶ Minority Shabaks were targeted as were other Shia neighborhoods and mosques. An August bombing killed 38 people as they left a Shia mosque near Mosul. At least 20 Kurds were killed in a suicide bombing in Wardek, south of Mosul. Tal Afar’s mayor and a judge survived separate assassination attempts. The PRT reported U.S. military training with the ISF had increased security, but the province remained vulnerable in the absence of a durable political solution.⁴⁸⁷

The PRT’s RoL section indicated progress this quarter, reporting that legal institutions that had limited impact or public trust were now “semi-effective” and operating with “sufficient” public support. Judges permanently located in Ninewa began to hear cases this quarter, and traveling judges from Baghdad were no longer required. The PRT considers the Ninewa Bar Association to be strong, with a contingent of well-educated lawyers. Courthouses were usually open to the public on regular working days.⁴⁸⁸

SECURITY INCIDENTS IN NINEWA

(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)
7/1/2009–10/15/2009



The Iraqi Police began to address corruption issues and maintain law and order, but the PRT reported that crime scene investigations were poorly conducted and evidence was frequently tainted, altered, destroyed, or lost. The severe shortage of police in the province results in the Iraqi Army being first responders to crime scenes, the PRT reported. The IA lacks sufficient training in crime scene methods, resulting in loss of evidence. The Mosul Crime Lab is not sufficiently staffed or equipped to have a meaningful effect on criminal prosecutions, and judicial security continues to be a significant concern.⁴⁸⁹

Infrastructure

USAID worked with Iraqis to develop water, sewer, school, and road programs and assisted the local government in Tal Afar to create a Farmers’ Business Training Program. USAID also trained the PC’s legal committee to develop bylaws and charters.⁴⁹⁰ According to the MND-N brigade commander, improvements to basic infrastructure were in the works in Mosul this quarter.⁴⁹¹

- Electricity—70% of homes in Mosul have electricity service. Two CERP projects were under construction to expand the distribution network.
- Water—50% of the people receive water through pipes, 33% by truck, and the remainder by other sources. This quarter, 8 water pump stations and water main projects were completed, providing water by pipe to 42,000 people.
- Sewage—3 sewage projects were completed in August, providing sewage disposal to 20,000 Iraqis.

Economy

Ninewa’s economic base is dependent on agriculture, oil, asphalt, textiles, and sugar. The Provincial Investment Commission hopes to capitalize on the area’s potential for development in the petrochemical and sulfur industries. State-owned enterprises include factories for cotton, sugar, dairy, and hand-made carpets.⁴⁹²

U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN NINEWA

\$ Millions

SECTOR	TOTAL
Electricity	118.74
Water and Sanitation	126.87
Oil and Gas	0.08
Transportation and Communications	66.06
General Infrastructure	6.97
Total	318.71

Among the U.S.-funded activities supporting economic development this quarter were:

- a retail market at a Forward Operating Base, including opportunities for women and minorities⁴⁹³
- a training course for 30 women belonging to the first all-woman agricultural association⁴⁹⁴
- micro-grants and micro-purchases awarded to internally displaced communities living in disputed areas of the province⁴⁹⁵
- small QRF grants to help young people start farms and to provide farm equipment to agricultural associations⁴⁹⁶

Tameem

Governance

Tameem's administrative status remains in dispute because the territory is claimed by both the GOI and KRG. Iraqi and international efforts to find a solution have thus far been unsuccessful. Article 140 of the Iraqi Constitution provides a path for a resolution beginning with a national census and a nationwide referendum, but to date, no census is scheduled. Because of the dispute, Tameem residents did not vote in either the provincial elections held last January or in the Kurdistan Region's elections held this quarter.⁴⁹⁷ The Special Envoy of the U.S. Ambassador for Northern Regions relocated to Tameem this quarter to focus on finding a resolution to the territorial dispute.⁴⁹⁸ PRT



Members of the Ard Al-Barka farmers association receive QRF grants. (OPA photo)

Tameem reported that the province's unresolved issues hindered progress in governance and the investment climate.⁴⁹⁹

Though they did not participate in the elections, Kurdish groups in Tameem keenly observed them, and PRT Tameem reported that the vote is likely to have a lasting effect on the distribution of power in the province. Although the final impact remains to be seen, there appeared to be a reduction in the influence of the KDP-PUK monopoly on politics as some residents openly supported the Kurdistan Region's new Change List party.⁵⁰⁰ The party plans to open two offices in Tameem under the supervision of the former PUK provincial chairman.⁵⁰¹

On the national front, the PRT helped organize voter registration for upcoming January 2010 elections—another difficult topic of discussion with local Tameem leaders. The PRT expressed concern that potential voter apathy among Arab and Turkoman communities might produce disproportional results that favor Kurds, whom the PRT described as more politically organized than other ethnoreligious groups.⁵⁰²

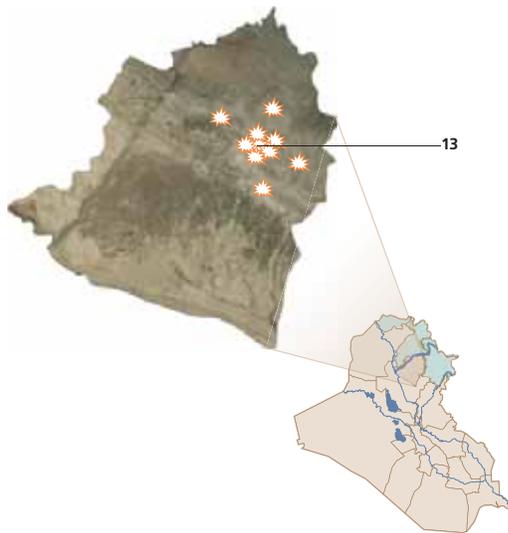
Security and Rule of Law

The security environment remained poor in Tameem province, with continued bombings and murders concentrated around the provincial capital, Kirkuk. At least 17 incidents resulted in the



A tractor deposits trash at the Kirkuk Solid Waste Transfer Station #1 in Tameem province. (GRD photo)

SECURITY INCIDENTS IN TAMEEM
(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)
7/1/2009–10/15/2009



deaths of two or more people. Police were gunned down by assailants in Kirkuk and a roadside bomb killed a police chief in the neighboring town of Amirli. Gunmen kidnapped a former hospital administrator. The PRT also reported a growing sense of fatigue among PC members to address the province’s political situation.⁵⁰³

The PRT’s RoL section held a joint meeting of judges and police officials this quarter to improve

communication on law-enforcement issues.⁵⁰⁴ The section worked on a project to open a women’s legal clinic and initiated a review of courthouse security that will be conducted by USACE.⁵⁰⁵ The RoL section also met with the provincial Commission on Integrity (COI) to discuss strategies for the use of confidential informants during investigations.⁵⁰⁶ In an attempt to decrease the level of provincial corruption, the section has drawn up a CERP-funded proposal to strengthen the COI office. The section also won CERP approval for a campaign against honor killings and an extension on a women’s legal aid clinic.⁵⁰⁷

Infrastructure

Construction continued this quarter on the al-Rasheed Wastewater Treatment Plant.⁵⁰⁸ According to the MNC-N brigade commander, a second water treatment plant in Hawijah was completed this quarter and has increased Kirkuk City’s water output by 30%. The new plant will also redistribute water to rural areas via canals. The brigade commander noted that there were still no operating sewage treatment facilities in the province, but there was reported progress this quarter toward completing a sewage facility in south Kirkuk City that will service 50,000 people.⁵⁰⁹

Work was 25% complete this quarter on a major road leading to a provincial airfield. The contractor, however, was issued a stop work order due to inefficiencies in the plans submitted and a lack of contract understanding.⁵¹⁰

USAID worked this quarter on a solid waste management plan in Hawijah, trained

U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN TAMEEM
\$ Millions

SECTOR	TOTAL
Electricity	362.23
Water and Sanitation	42.87
Oil and Gas	187.39
Transportation and Communications	21.09
General Infrastructure	8.47
Total	622.05

supervisors on waste management practices, and helped the municipality of Kirkuk create waste collection zones. USAID also helped the municipality design and initiate construction on a \$1.5 million solid waste transfer station.⁵¹¹

Economy

Tameem's economic growth relies heavily on oil production. Aside from oil, Tameem relies on agriculture, plastics manufacturing, woven carpets, and livestock.⁵¹²

To support the agricultural sector, CERP funds were allocated to complete the Mesopotamia Strategic Silo in Taza, considered a key node in the agricultural infrastructure of Tameem. In turn, facility managers have committed to renovating and expanding a corn-seed processing plant.⁵¹³

This year, continuing drought has prevented a rise in grain production, and the PRT Economic Development team worked this quarter to bring drip irrigation to farmers.⁵¹⁴ USAID, through its Inma program, facilitated a grant to a beef feedlot that will use farming methods that help calves grow faster and gain weight quicker. The program also issued eight agricultural loans totaling more than \$25,000.⁵¹⁵

Salah Al-Din

Governance

PRT Salah Al-Din reported that its relationship with provincial leaders changed this quarter with the redeployment of U.S. forces outside major urban centers. The PC Chairman indicated he was ready to engage his province in a more "normal" bilateral relationship—particularly as it relates to foreign investment, jobs, critical infrastructure, and civil capacity building.⁵¹⁶ Provincial leaders often referred to the PRT as "U.S. Embassy officials"⁵¹⁷ USAID noted that the citizens had elected 40 new PC members, and reelected only one



PRT Salah Al-Din meets with the provincial governor and members of the Provincial Council. (OPA photo)

candidate, which they attributed to a high level of understanding of the democratic process.⁵¹⁸

PRT projects focused more on government capacity building this quarter, though political divides between the two main parties, and the possible removal of the governor, distracted the PC from its governance goals.⁵¹⁹ The PRT interacted regularly with the PC, reporting a greater willingness among local leaders to visit U.S.-funded project sites. The PRT reported improvement in effectiveness and transparency of the provincial government. In early September, the PC voted the governor out of office, and an appeal is underway.⁵²⁰

At the district level, however, the PRT noted that governments were often not viewed as legitimate or as representative of the will of the people. District governments still exhibited poor planning and budgeting practices, and provincial and local officials reportedly do not communicate well.⁵²¹

Security and Rule of Law

As the home province of former President Saddam Hussein, Salah Al-Din has been one of Iraq's least secure places, but this quarter the level of violence was low. The province has suffered from waves of sectarian violence since the Golden Mosque was bombed in 2006 and again in 2007. Though the mosque's dome and minarets are once again

SECURITY INCIDENTS IN SALAH AL-DIN

(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)
7/1/2009–10/15/2009



standing, positively transforming a once painful symbol of nationwide sectarian violence, roadside bombings occurred throughout the province this quarter, particularly in the eastern half of the territory. In August and September, the PRT reported a spike in insurgent activities in Tooz and that the residents of the district traded in illegal weapons.⁵²²

However, the PRT reported that Samarra, the provincial capital, enjoyed relative peace and stability this quarter due to reconciliation efforts between local officials, Sons of Iraq leaders, and the Samarra Operations Center established in the wake of the 2006 and 2007 Golden Mosque bombings. With appropriate security protection, PRT members were generally free to travel anywhere in the province, but unreliable IP escorts and the inaccessibility of certain venues for tactical vehicles remained obstacles to movement.⁵²³

The PRT's RoL team leader traveled to Erbil this quarter to attend a judicial conference involving 40 judges from the seven northern-most Iraqi provinces.⁵²⁴ Subjects included security arrangements following the redeployment of U.S. forces, jail segregation, and judicial security.⁵²⁵ The PRT also



The Golden Mosque in Samarra after the February 2006 bombing. (GOI photo)



On March 6, 2009, pilgrims visit the Golden Mosque in Samarra, under construction following bombings in 2006 and 2007. (GOI photo)

continued to discuss the transfer of Iraqi detainees from U.S. to Iraqi control.⁵²⁶

Infrastructure

PRT Salah Al-Din described the province's transition from heavy construction projects to government capacity building as in its "infancy."⁵²⁷ The MNC-N brigade commander reported that most sewage systems were in disrepair and that two new water treatment facilities were providing water for 6,000 Iraqis per day.⁵²⁸ USAID worked with municipalities in Tikrit and Tooz to improve management of water and solid waste infrastructure facilities.⁵²⁹

Economy

Salah Al-Din's largest industries are animal husbandry and oil refining. This quarter, the province

U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN SALAH AL-DIN \$ Millions

SECTOR	TOTAL
Electricity	311.19
Water and Sanitation	59.51
Oil and Gas	71.52
Transportation and Communications	65.75
General Infrastructure	7.37
Total	515.35

sought to expand into the tourism industry through the preservation and promotion of ancient archeological sites, including the Assyrian city of Ashur and several Islamic shrines.⁵³⁰

The Provincial Investment Commission hoped to boost the economy by restoring a power plant and supporting petrochemical businesses. The council is in negotiations with a UK investor to develop an airport at a former air base outside of Tikrit.⁵³¹ The governor and PC leaders also visited Turkey seeking new investment for other projects.⁵³² Final preparations are now in place to award CERP-funded micro-grants to merchants near the Golden Mosque.⁵³³

USAID and the PRT focused this quarter on agriculture, including:

- a grant program to provide a \$6,000 “hoop house” to 30 farmers willing to invest some of their own money⁵³⁴
- the rehabilitation of the Balad Canning Factory, which employs more than 160 workers⁵³⁵

Despite these efforts, the PRT reported economic challenges throughout the province, including minimal access to business credit, ongoing drought conditions, and a lack of familiarity with free markets and investment planning. Agricultural successes varied from region to region with some parts of the province experiencing surplus harvests for which markets are inadequate and others reporting low levels of output.⁵³⁶

Anbar

Governance

Anbar’s politics began realigning this quarter with the appearance of several new political blocks. A Shia alliance was formed in July and an “anti-sectarian, nationalist” coalition was founded by a Sunni tribal sheik in August. Both new parties plan to compete in the January 2010 national elections. In another shift, the Iraq Awakening Council announced its affiliation with Prime Minister al-Maliki’s State of Law Coalition.⁵³⁷ Despite this activity, the PRT reported a low level of citizen response to voter registration drives ahead of the national elections.⁵³⁸

The PRT reported that Anbar’s Provincial Council, meanwhile, focused on corruption this quarter, scrutinizing projects authorized by the previous government and highlighting contracts awarded without a competitive bidding process.⁵³⁹

PRT Anbar’s governance section met with the chairmen of two city councils in western Anbar, who complained that they were frustrated with the lack of services and budgetary support from the central government.⁵⁴⁰ USAID projects in the province focused on helping the PC complete its bylaws, and assisting the council and governor’s offices with budget planning.⁵⁴¹

Security and Rule of Law

Anbar remained one of Iraq’s least secure provinces this quarter with security incidents concentrated in the far eastern corner of the territory. Suicide bombers targeted policemen and people waiting at checkpoints. At least 26 incidents left two or more people dead. PRT Anbar limited its movements in the provincial capital, Ramadi, following the June 30, 2009, redeployment of U.S. forces. All PRT movements this quarter required IP escort, which sometimes caused delays, though movements in rural areas were unaffected.⁵⁴² PRT Anbar reported its monthly movements were about one-fifth what they were last winter.⁵⁴³

Provincial leaders, meanwhile, moved to crack down on imams, or prayer leaders, who sought to use the pulpit to foment political dissent. The PRT reported that the provincial governor is now requiring imams to obtain approval from government religious authorities before they can give sermons. In September, government authorities prevented seven prayer leaders from conducting Friday prayers because they did not have government permission.⁵⁴⁴

The PRT's RoL section reduced its contact with the province's judicial leadership to twice-monthly meetings, reporting that Anbar's judiciary was operating independently and did not seek mentoring or close association with the PRT. The RoL team continued to use USAID/IRAP grants to establish a legal aid clinic in Ramadi and other projects, such as purchasing law books for courthouses.⁵⁴⁵ The PRT reported a substantial backlog of cases in Anbar's judicial system due to the session closing of the criminal court in Falluja.⁵⁴⁶

Infrastructure

Several CERP projects identified this quarter, including eight "biological lagoon" wastewater treatment systems.⁵⁴⁷

Additionally, the provincial director general of railroads agreed to a cost-share arrangement for the reconstruction of a Ramadi passenger train service. The agreement provides for the Iraq Republic Railroad to rebuild the tracks and the U.S. government to construct the train station and platform. A proposal using CERP funds for this project were approved in August.⁵⁴⁸

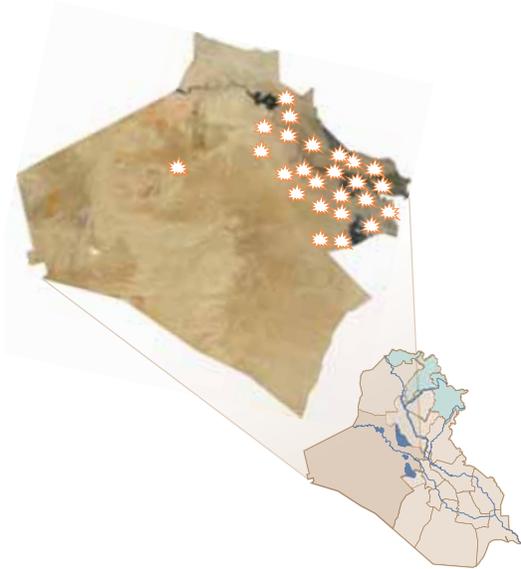
USAID worked to resolve infrastructure problems related to water, electricity, solid waste, and roads in Rutbah District, and conducted repair assessments of 18 water treatment plants. USAID also provided advice to more than 25 potato farmers.⁵⁴⁹

Economy

Impoverished and drought-prone, Anbar sought international investment this quarter on oil, housing, petrochemical, and electricity projects touted

SECURITY INCIDENTS IN ANBAR

(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)
7/1/2009–10/15/2009



U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN ANBAR

\$ Millions

SECTOR	TOTAL
Electricity	251.58
Water and Sanitation	188.88
Oil and Gas	–
Transportation and Communications	70.15
General Infrastructure	3.92
Total	514.53

by the province's business-minded governor. Although many of the ideas were still in the planning stages, the governor won recognition from *fDi Magazine*, a publication of the *Financial Times*, which declared him Global Personality of the Year 2009.⁵⁵⁰ The cost of the *Financial Times* supplement was funded by an MNF-W CERP initiative.⁵⁵¹

The Provincial Investment Commission, meanwhile, issued eight business licenses to companies interested in operating in Anbar, including two housing projects, a hotel in Ramadi, various manufacturing concerns, and an oil refining plant.⁵⁵²



Engineers from GRD inspect the progress of work at the Muhammadi Police Station in Anbar province. (GRD photo)

PRT Anbar focused this quarter on agriculture projects, ordering diagnostic kits that can detect disease in poultry and concluding a wheat project aimed at increasing crop yields.⁵⁵³

A \$1 million USAID/Inma grant was awarded this quarter to the Iraqi Company for Small- and Micro-Enterprise Finance so that it can make bank loans to small- and medium-sized agricultural enterprises. With CERP funding, the Zozik Company, in coordination with provincial leaders, trained 65 local agronomists in modern wheat farming techniques, including fertilization, use of machinery, and safe application of pesticides.⁵⁵⁴

Diyala

Governance

PRT Diyala reported that mass arrests of Sunni politicians continued this quarter, including the arrests of a deputy governor and two members of the PC, despite assurances by the central government that candidates running in last January's provincial election had been cleared of wrongdoing. In addition to the arrests, a power play within the PC pitted opposition groups, including Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's State of Law Coalition, against a ruling coalition of Kurds and Sunni Arabs. Despite

this, and despite CMM scores that fall largely below sustainability levels, the PRT reported that the PC was slowly increasing its ability to govern.⁵⁵⁵

The PRT reported that the upcoming January 2010 elections could become a flashpoint for ethno-sectarian tensions in Diyala. The PRT noted with concern allegations that voter registration of Sunnis was slow in areas where an IHEC official was Shia. Similarly there was concern that Sunni sheiks responsible for distributing voter registration packets might not distribute them adequately in Shia and Turkoman areas.⁵⁵⁶ In PRT Diyala's view, the long-term political stability of the province may depend on the degree to which the public views the results of the 2010 elections as credible and legitimate.⁵⁵⁷

The continued arrests of Sunni provincial officials have undercut efforts by Diyala's government to institute anticorruption reforms and modernize government management and oversight, the PRT reported. Last quarter there were so many arrest warrants outstanding that the PC elected a professor who was not identified with any party as governor because he had no arrest warrant outstanding.⁵⁵⁸ PRT Diyala described the wave of arrests as "depriving Diyala of moderates whose participation in the political process is essential for the establishment of a sustainable democracy."⁵⁵⁹

Of particular concern was the attempt of a local Iraqi commander to take over civilian government



A U.S. Army soldier hands candy to Iraqi children in Diyala province. (MNF-I photo)

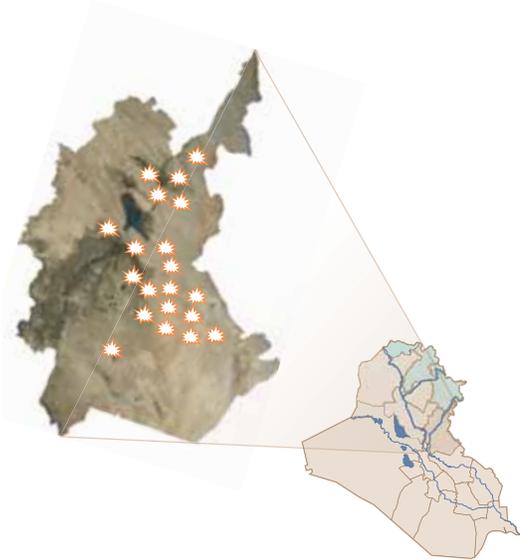
functions, effectively creating a structure within the Iraqi Army that paralleled the elected civilian government, despite the PRT's efforts to highlight the predominance of the PC over security services on matters of governance.⁵⁶⁰ Despite these difficulties, the PRT reported the provincial government had made a "good start" instituting modern management practices.⁵⁶¹

Security and Rule of Law

Diyala's security situation remained volatile this quarter with at least 20 bombings, including the mid-July bombing of the office of a Sunni political party, killing five.⁵⁶² Continued arrests and violence against Sunni leaders cast a shadow over provincial politics. The deputy governor returned to his duties in September after several weeks in hiding due to threat of arrest; a defense lawyer was gunned down outside a courthouse; a PC member's son was kidnapped and killed; and another member survived an apparent assassination attempt.⁵⁶³ Diyala's diverse ethnic composition of Kurds, Turkoman, and Arabs has led to widespread security problems and internal displacement. Approximately 80% of IDPs living in Diyala are originally from Diyala, having fled to other parts of the province to avoid being targeted for their ethnoreligious or political allegiances. Disputed boundaries with the Kurdistan Region also contribute to tensions, and although

SECURITY INCIDENTS IN DIYALA

(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)
7/1/2009–10/15/2009



security has improved, the situation remains more tenuous than in most other areas of Iraq.⁵⁶⁴

PRT Diyala reduced its engagements with local officials following the June 30, 2009, withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraqi cities, often because of a lack of IP escorts. The PRT reported that it was unclear whether ISF would be able to adequately secure the province.⁵⁶⁵

The PRT reported that the creation of the Diyala Defense Clinic was a key step toward developing a more functional judicial system. According to the PRT, many members of the Sunni majority in Diyala view the courts and prisons as badly biased against them, and many prisoners often either do not receive defense lawyers or do not trust them.⁵⁶⁶ Although court cases appeared to be moving forward—the PRT's RoL section found fewer prisoners at Ba'quba Prison than two months ago—there were still complaints of torture and abuse.⁵⁶⁷

Infrastructure

The PRT reported that poor security has caused Diyala to lag behind many provinces in reconstruction of its infrastructure. Bombings, kidnappings,

U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN DIYALA

\$ Millions

SECTOR	TOTAL
Electricity	80.66
Water and Sanitation	143.47
Oil and Gas	2.89
Transportation and Communications	23.79
General Infrastructure	6.24
Total	257.05

and attempts on the lives of GOI officials has left Diyala without an opportunity to develop brick-and-mortar projects to the degree the safer security situation has offered other PRT teams. Portions of the 2006, 2007, and 2008 capital budgets remained unexecuted in late 2008 largely because of the security situation.⁵⁶⁸

Some projects have moved forward, however. Provincial officials this quarter accepted a PRT solid-waste proposal that includes six landfills and a wastewater system. The project is designed to increase the province's severely limited sewerage. Currently, sewage drains from many homes into the streets, creating impassable, trash-filled swamps.⁵⁶⁹ The majority of ongoing CERP and I-CERP infrastructure projects this quarter addressed issues in the water sector.⁵⁷⁰

Economy

Diyala's economic base is mainly agricultural, with citrus trees, dates, pomegranates, and fishing among its primary industries. The province's capital, Ba'quba, is powered by electricity from Iran. State-owned companies employ factory workers making bricks and electrical products.⁵⁷¹

USAID worked with provincial officials on drought-mitigation activities and assisted in obtaining funding for 146 wells.⁵⁷² PRT Diyala has built on the province's agriculture base. CERP and Inma funds were earmarked for projects such as feed mills and poultry production:

- One Inma project continuing this quarter aided a family-owned company in its quest to once

again provide bird stock to poultry farmers. The grant will fund a modern feed mill and subsidize the price of feed for one year.⁵⁷³

- The PRT also aided the Provincial Investment Commission, whose offices were taken over by the Iraqi Police, and assisted the Chamber of Commerce in efforts to organize a series of business development workshops in September.⁵⁷⁴
- The Aruba Market, Diyala's major commercial center, opened this quarter and is projected to create 1,000 new jobs.⁵⁷⁵ Several QRF grant initiatives continued or were launched this quarter to develop economic opportunities for women, including training on agriculture and livestock breeding for 500 women through a \$150,000 grant to the Iraqi Women's Gender Equality organization.⁵⁷⁶

Baghdad

Governance

PRT Baghdad reported the peaceful transfer of power to a new PC had continued this quarter with the resumption of what the PRT described as "traditional frictions" between provincial institutions and national ministries over authority, money, and organization. The PRT leader noted that government inexperience among most PC members, budget challenges, security concerns, a reduced U.S. military presence, and political positioning for the January 2010 parliamentary elections shaped the political atmosphere this quarter.⁵⁷⁷

The PRT reported these specific concerns:⁵⁷⁸

- Iraqi NGOs remained fragile, facing the challenges of limited capacity as they shifted funding to Iraqi and non-U.S. multinational sources.
- There remained a slow chain of action between national ministries and provincial governments in developing and approving infrastructure projects and land transfers.
- The rural districts remained low on most ministry priority lists.

Amid these concerns, PRT Baghdad helped to develop a \$2.5 million program for the Amanat Training Academy to upgrade the skills of 14,000 municipal employees. QRF proposals emphasized sustainability and the planned transfer of projects to Iraqi funding. The PRT executed a shift in focus away from municipal areas and toward the agricultural periphery.⁵⁷⁹ USAID worked closely with the provincial government to monitor the delivery of government services and facilitated meetings between local sheiks and international donors to implement a literacy program. USAID also distributed children’s books, trained 27 officials to track infrastructure projects, and provided consultation to NGOs active in women’s issues.⁵⁸⁰

PRT Baghdad’s perception was that Iraqi expectations of U.S. assistance were shifting away from brick-and-mortar projects, and that dependence on U.S. funding support for fuel, salaries, and maintenance had eased. On the other hand, the bureaucratic difficulties of executing QRF and CERP projects—both from the U.S. and Iraqi sides—appeared to have grown, delaying projects intended to meet emergency needs.⁵⁸¹

Security and Rule of Law

Roadside bombs, targeted killings, and kidnappings continued in Baghdad province this quarter, including two large coordinated bombings of the Foreign and Finance Ministries on August 19, 2009. Several Baghdad churches were bombed on July 11, 2009.⁵⁸² The violence was concentrated in Baghdad City, with few incidents occurring in rural areas. At least 20 people were killed when a car bomb exploded outside a Shia mosque. A member of former Prime Minister Iyad Allawi’s Iraqi National List was shot dead. Four people were killed in a bombing in a popular market.

The PRT and ePRTs reduced movements in Baghdad City this quarter and facilitated travel through informal, local understandings. The ISF has mostly cooperated to provide PRT and ePRT movement to government facilities and project sites

SECURITY INCIDENTS IN BAGHDAD

(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)
7/1/2009–10/15/2009



in the city, with the exception of Baghdad’s Sadr City neighborhood, where U.S. forces are not able to visit.⁵⁸³ The PRT expressed concern about the reappearance of extremist militias and their effect on social behavior.⁵⁸⁴

This quarter, the PRT’s RoL team continued to train law school faculty and judicial officials and to support and fund brick-and-mortar projects in outlying areas of Baghdad. PRT-Baghdad executed QRF micro-purchases to fund books for public law libraries in the two largest courthouses, and was developing CERP-funded projects for the Rusafa Courthouse.⁵⁸⁵ The RoL team noted two projects of concern.⁵⁸⁶

- The Women’s Legal and Social Clinic (funded by the Targeted Development Program) reported expenditures not in accordance with its grant agreement, and PRT-Baghdad remains concerned that the levels of service provided do not meet those expected under the grant terms. These concerns have been reported to the ITAO grant managers.
- The Coupon-Funded Legal Assistance Program (funded by USAID’s Community Stabilization

Program/Conflict Mitigation) appears to have overwhelmed the managerial abilities of the grantee, the Iraqi Jurist Union (IJU). DAI, the USAID-contractor charged with oversight and implementation of the CSCM program, has been working with the IJU to address its management deficiencies.

The RoL team suggested the implementation of management training for NGO-focused programs to reduce future accounting and management issues.

Infrastructure

The PRT reported that its efforts had increasingly shifted to sustainable government capacity building in the province. CERP obligations by MND-B declined to \$128 million, and further reductions were expected in 2010. Remaining CERP projects included a \$600,000 plan to restore a failed sewer main and a plan to repair a highway span that has been delayed by ethnic violence and contractor default.⁵⁸⁷

MND-B's Brigade Commander reported that CERP funding faces so many administrative hurdles that the program is no longer flexible and responsive. The commander said that burdensome paperwork hampered the allocation of available funds and imposed so many limitations on Iraqis that there was a reluctance, and sometimes refusal, to accept CERP money.⁵⁸⁸ MNC-I, however, noted that mechanisms were in place to prevent execution of unnecessary projects, and that projects required GOI commitment to sustainment prior to completion.⁵⁸⁹

The PRT reported that some infrastructure projects had moved ahead this quarter. The PRT worked to link the Qa Qa Water Treatment Facility to the Shi Shi Bar pumping station to improve the delivery of potable water in the province. In all, PRT Baghdad reported it had managed the memorandums of agreement with Baghdad's municipal authorities governing \$40 million in CERP projects in the last year.⁵⁹⁰

Also in the water sector, PRT Baghdad worked with the Embassy's Joint Reconstruction

U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN BAGHDAD

\$ Millions

SECTOR	TOTAL
Electricity	1,504.22
Water and Sanitation	755.31
Oil and Gas	40.60
Transportation and Communications	282.17
General Infrastructure	341.68
Total	2,923.97

Operations Cell and Economic Section to try to obtain international financing for a \$500 million expansion of the Karkh Wastewater Treatment Plant, which was last operational in 2005. Currently raw sewage bypasses the facility and is dumped into the Tigris River.⁵⁹¹

Economy

Baghdad province's main industries include oil refining, financial services, processed food, tobacco, and construction, among other light manufacturing. The Provincial Investment Commission sees potential growth in tourism, retail, health care, and information technology.⁵⁹² Agriculture is also a main economic component for about a million inhabitants in the province's outlying areas. PRT Baghdad focused its attention this quarter on rural areas, working to complete a poultry-to-market project and a drip-irrigation project. The PRT has also supported a small business association and five women's centers that provide a range of services.⁵⁹³

The PRT reported that economic challenges remained, including a commercial lending structure that often relied on political and personal contacts, unrealistic privatization plans for state-owned enterprises, and poor irrigation. Small manufacturers reportedly complained of unregulated imports and unfair competition from subsidized state-owned enterprises.⁵⁹⁴

Wassit

Governance

The PRT reported that Iraqi officials continued this quarter to press for large-scale “milestone” and “legacy” projects such as dams, major research hospitals, and industrial installations. The PRT clarified that a new phase in the provision of assistance had shifted priorities toward government capacity-building efforts. The news of the PRT’s transition was met with mixed reactions: Many Iraqi government institutions welcomed the governance focus of the initiatives, while others noted the unfinished job of infrastructure and capital project reconstruction.⁵⁹⁵

The PRT also reported a meeting with key supporters of Muqtada al-Sadr who expressed willingness to engage with the PRT, a development the PRT described as an “unusual dynamic in Iraq.” The PRT saw this as an opportunity for outreach to al-Sadr’s followers in ways that could potentially reduce political tensions, bolster security, and increase support for political reconciliation in the province.⁵⁹⁶

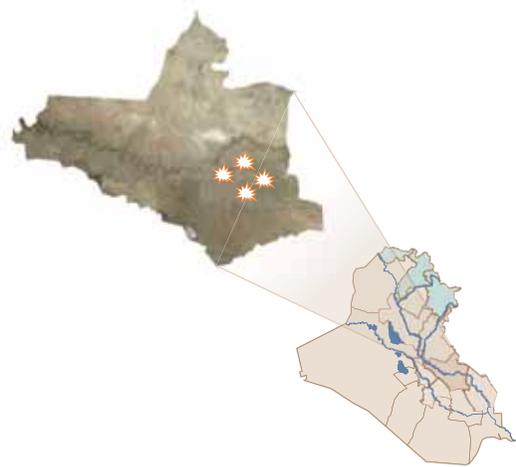
Regarding budgeting, the PRT reported that the provincial coffers had received a substantial infusion of cash this quarter from a government-run truck-staging area in the province, though how much cash had been collected remained unclear.



PRT Wassit shared a Ramadan “Iftar” dinner with residents of a farming village as part of an outreach and reconciliation effort in the province. (OPA photo)

SECURITY INCIDENTS IN WASSIT

(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)
7/1/2009–10/15/2009



The PRT reported that as both a significant revenue source and a potential point of controversy about transparency and corruption, the trucking operation invited continued scrutiny.⁵⁹⁷

USAID’s Tatweer program trained nearly 400 provincial officials in public administration and management, and worked with district officials and citizens to identify community needs and effective ways to respond to those needs at the lowest levels of government.⁵⁹⁸

Security and Rule of Law

PRT Wassit reported that the security situation in the province was generally stable this quarter despite an increase in security incidents directed against FOB Delta and convoys traveling in the province after June 30. Two separate bombings reportedly killed 15 Iraqi civilians in August—the first such attacks in some time. There were few security-related restrictions on movement this quarter, though certain communities presented greater relative danger to the PRT than others. The PRT predicted that as U.S. troops begin to withdraw further, its ability to travel throughout Wassit will decrease, and reconstruction efforts will need to be redirected to the most vital areas.⁵⁹⁹

The PRT’s RoL section continued this quarter to engage judges and prosecutors on a regular basis at six courthouses under renovation. During one visit, a judge brought up the issue of detainee treatment at the jail, including a case of prisoner abuse. RoL reported that judges appeared increasingly aware of due-process issues. Iraqi police continued training in the mechanics of crime scene investigation and the issuance of arrest warrants. The PRT sponsored symposia this quarter to educate Iraqi attorneys.⁶⁰⁰

Infrastructure

The PRT reported that only 2 of 10 “CERP surge” projects submitted for approval by the end of the quarter had been granted. Obtaining approval for the remainder was among the PRT’s most important remaining priorities.⁶⁰¹ The MND-S brigade commander reported 35 ongoing projects this quarter and another 29 in the planning phase. The focus was on improving the water supply for drinking and irrigation, building courthouses and schools, and border security, including:⁶⁰²

- an ISFF grant to provide solar and wind power at a border outpost, which could be duplicated at other outposts
- an ISFF project designed to reduce smuggling by creating a customs point of entry
- a water pumping station along the Hahwar canal that will provide water for agriculture, cooking, and bathing



Al-Jihad Water Compact Unit produces 200 cubic meters of water per hour in Wassit province. (OPA photo)

U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN WASSIT

\$ Millions

SECTOR	TOTAL
Electricity	45.38
Water and Sanitation	30.21
Oil and Gas	–
Transportation and Communications	19.18
General Infrastructure	10.23
Total	105.01

Additionally, a CERP-funded project to rehabilitate the al-Muntanabi Primary School was in its final stages.⁶⁰³ Some \$4.8 million in I-CERP funds were earmarked for rehabilitation of the Jassan-Dabuni canal pump station, which will aid communities in western and northern Wassit.⁶⁰⁴ USAID provided technical assistance and maintenance to the al-Shuahmiyah water pump station that will provide uninterrupted water flow to about 40,000 people.⁶⁰⁵

The GRD reported that the Wassit Engineering College Laboratory was 98% complete this quarter. Scheduled for completion on October 15, 2009, the project will install new laboratory equipment and supply faculty training for modern computer labs, soil and asphalt testing labs, and a surveying lab at Wassit University Engineering College.⁶⁰⁶

Economy

The PRT reported that Wassit’s agricultural sector was beset with serious problems, such as declining water resources, increasing soil salinity, poor irrigation methods, a lack of modern equipment, and demographic shortfalls that have forced farmers to abandon land and head to urban areas.⁶⁰⁷ The PC this quarter asked PRT Wassit to focus on agricultural projects.⁶⁰⁸ The PRT’s economics section conducted a lengthy brainstorming meeting with the Chamber of Commerce’s board of directors to identify companies to approach about possible investment in the province.⁶⁰⁹ PRT Wassit inspected a CERP-funded market and refined the management of a QRF-funded tractor rental

program.⁶¹⁰ USAID’s Tijara program provided technical assistance to two small-business development centers.⁶¹¹

Wassit’s Provincial Investment Commission considers agriculture among the province’s most important industries, employing 38% of the work force, growing wheat, barley, fruit, and dates. Tomato paste and fisheries are also important areas of production.⁶¹² To aid in this sector, PRT Wassit organized an agricultural conference, facilitated agriculture training this quarter, and sponsored a workshop on greenhouse technology.⁶¹³

A modern auto dealership opened in Wassit this quarter as a result of an earlier PRT-sponsored Opportunities Fair that attracted a Lebanese company. The dealership uses auto financing and has plans to open a parts and services department—two firsts for the province.⁶¹⁴

Babylon

Governance

The PRT reported that attendance by the PC was so poor last quarter that the chairman threatened in July to start fining members who missed sessions.⁶¹⁵ The government staff, meanwhile, recommended creating a provincial secretary position, which PRT Babylon and USAID viewed favorably as a way to improve transparency, reduce corruption, and increase public participation in PC activities.⁶¹⁶

Despite budgetary problems, the PRT reported that the PC had allocated funds to purchase a new SUV for each PC member shortly before firing a municipal director to save public funds from being wasted. In a separate issue, the provincial minister in charge of civil-society organizations claimed that 300 of the 400 registered NGOs in the province were “fictitious.”⁶¹⁷

Security and Rule of Law

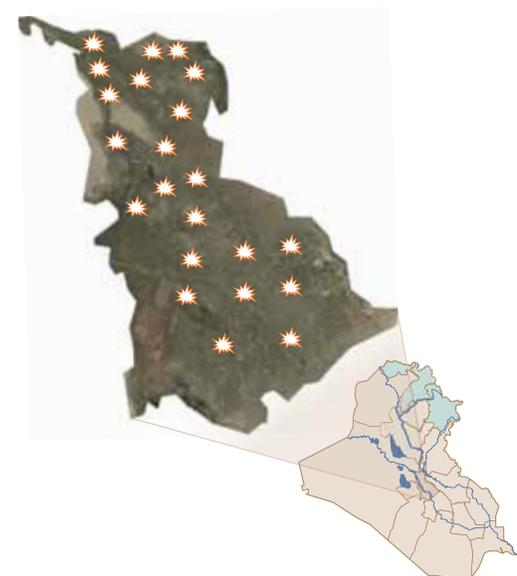
PRT Babylon reported that public reaction in Babylon to the June 30 redeployment of U.S. forces was

mutated, and the popular mood was a mix of “indifference” and “apprehension” over security.⁶¹⁸ The PRT characterized provincial security as “good” and the province as “stable,” but also reported a slight uptick in roadside bombs in July.⁶¹⁹ Also in July, unknown gunmen attacked police in two different incidents, and an SOI checkpoint came under fire.⁶²⁰ In August, 8 car bombs exploded (killing 3 and wounding 39), a grenade exploded at the office of the Iraqi National Stream party, gunmen killed the brother of a ministry director, and the PRT reported potential for an increase in tribal disputes.⁶²¹ One local politician warned that late payments to SOI members could jeopardize security.⁶²²

The PRT reported that the rise in violence represented a change from previous quarters. Babylon had been relatively safe—safe enough that less than half of the IDPs residing in the province told pollsters that they wanted to return home, though a portion hoped to resettle in a third location. Despite the deteriorating security situation, the Shia holiday of Shabaniya was celebrated without a significant security incident.⁶²³

SECURITY INCIDENTS IN BABYLON

(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)
7/1/2009–10/15/2009



A survey conducted by the PRT-supported al-Meezan Legal Newspaper revealed a widespread perception that the centralized Administrative Court is “overwhelmed and inefficient.”⁶²⁴ In mid-September, a Center for the Defense of Arbitrary Detainees opened with support from the European Union, the United Nations, and an Italian organization.⁶²⁵

Infrastructure

PRT Babylon reported that the transition from brick-and-mortar projects was underway this quarter, and there were no plans for additional large structures. Still under construction were two primary schools, two secondary schools, and one regional courthouse. The Mussayib Civic Center, the last large structure to be built with U.S. funds, is scheduled for completion in August 2010. The new Hillah Courthouse project was nearing completion this quarter and is scheduled to open in 2010.⁶²⁶

In the areas of electricity, water, and sewage, the PRT and USAID worked this quarter on:

- sustaining the finished Jebalah substation and the al-Karya al-Asryah water project by training Iraqi officials and testing equipment⁶²⁷
- preventing a cholera epidemic due to drought conditions and poor water quality⁶²⁸
- bringing water tanks to rural areas that have contaminated or poor quality water and helping to construct solar-powered water filtration units to purify contaminated irrigation water⁶²⁹

U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN BABYLON

\$ Millions

SECTOR	TOTAL
Electricity	121.65
Water and Sanitation	47.63
Oil and Gas	–
Transportation and Communications	36.01
General Infrastructure	3.49
Total	208.78



PRT Babylon hands over the keys to seven new water tanker trucks to Babylon's governor. (OPA photo)

According to the MND-S brigade commander, there were 29 projects in progress and 31 more in development this quarter, including a \$1 million ESF project to improve security of the local police force in the northern town of al-Khidr.⁶³⁰

The GRD reported that the al-Eskan Water Compact Unit was 70% complete this quarter with a scheduled completion date of April 5, 2010. Once complete, the unit will treat water, provide storage tanks, and sludge lagoons. The project is expected to provide potable water for up to 10,000 people.⁶³¹

Economy

As the cradle of Iraq's ancient civilization, Babylon is rich in historic ruins that could form the basis of a tourist industry. To that end, the State Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities allocated \$500,000 this quarter to renovate archeological sites with the goal of opening them to the public soon. Disagreement remained on how to preserve the archeological heritage while making the site available to tourists.⁶³² Other than archeology, Babylon is known for its dates, and agriculture employs roughly 25% of the population.⁶³³

This quarter, the PRT and USAID assisted in economic development through these projects:

- the Abu Ghurak Market—third in a series of six neighborhood markets being provided through

a collaborative effort between the PRT and the provincial government⁶³⁴

- a private business-development initiative to provide credit to small- and medium-sized enterprises⁶³⁵
- restructuring of the Babylon Velvet and Sewing Factory that will provide 450 jobs and potential annual revenue of \$20 million⁶³⁶

The PRT noted that potential investors face the challenges of obtaining credit, as well as tourism monopolies and red tape at the provincial and national levels. The PRT predicted difficulty changing a provincial attitude that assumed the central government could solve business problems.⁶³⁷

Qadissiya

Governance

PRT Qadissiya reported that it had conducted urban planning and community management training at the district levels this quarter. Mayors of four districts participated in the program,⁶³⁸ which teaches government officials how to envision and plan for community development by targeting available financial resources. The PRT reported that the new governor and PC were more open to working with the PRT than the previous provincial administration. In this environment, the PRT has been able to offer new ideas for best practices, including a strategy for changing government and public attitudes toward NGOs, which had been viewed with suspicion. The PRT also reported that the provincial Commission on Integrity had begun anticorruption efforts.⁶³⁹

USAID reported that about 310 provincial officials participated in its Tatweer program, which sought to improve governance capabilities through courses on leadership, human resources, project and fiscal management, procurement, and anticorruption.⁶⁴⁰

Security and Rule of Law

The PRT reported that Qadissiya enjoyed a relatively stable security environment, though this quarter there was an apparent assassination attempt on the director general for agriculture.⁶⁴¹ The province is secure enough that almost half of the province's IDP population reported that they hoped to stay in Qadissiya despite poor infrastructure and limited job opportunities.⁶⁴² PRT Qadissiya's movements around the province were sometimes hampered by the absence of an IP escort on missions within the provincial capital. Occasionally, the problem prevented the PRT from visiting project sites and meeting with Iraqi officials in their offices.⁶⁴³

PRT Qadissiya reported that it has not had a full-time RoL advisor for several months. Nonetheless, the PRT worked on a number of RoL activities this quarter, including visits to the province's chief judge and to several courthouses. The PRT is currently working with CERP funds to rehabilitate the offices of the provincial COI.⁶⁴⁴

SECURITY INCIDENTS IN QADISSIYA

(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)
7/1/2009–10/15/2009





Water tank installed at Al-Zahour, Qadissiya province. (OPA photo)

Infrastructure

The PRT reported that the provincial government focused this quarter on improving its water and electricity delivery systems. To that end, the PRT obtained CERP funding for the mechanical refitting and filter replacement of the Diwaniya Water Treatment Plant, as well as four electrical feeder line projects.⁶⁴⁵ When complete, the plant should provide drinking water to the provincial capital, Diwaniya. In all, there were 10 projects being executed and 16 others in planning stages this quarter, according to the MND-S Brigade Commander.⁶⁴⁶ In addition to the water plant, there were three planned sewer improvement projects and four IP stations under construction.⁶⁴⁷

In July, the project to refurbish and expand the al-Akhlaas Primary School was completed, including 6 new classrooms that will accommodate

U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN QADISSIYA

\$ Millions

SECTOR	TOTAL
Electricity	86.78
Water and Sanitation	30.46
Oil and Gas	–
Transportation and Communications	21.75
General Infrastructure	2.65
Total	141.63

nearly 500 students attending this school, new bathrooms, and a courtyard.⁶⁴⁸ Two other schools received new QRF-funded bathrooms, desks, chairs, and air conditioners.⁶⁴⁹

Economy

Agriculture is at the core of Qadissiya's economic activity, and the PRT sought to strengthen this sector by training farmers to use advanced technology to map the province's limited water resources. Funding was approved for a soil-testing laboratory, and the PRT reported improvement in the province's agricultural capabilities to ensure better water allocation and grow crops that are less dependent on water.⁶⁵⁰

In August, the PC chairman announced a deal with Hyundai to buy 10,000 cars for unemployed residents and recent college graduates for use as taxis or as transport while seeking employment.⁶⁵¹

The Iraqi National Investment Council reported that the provincial government also sought this quarter to build a sports arena and an international airport.⁶⁵² Officials consulted private investors interested in transforming the historic Niffar archeological site into a tourist attraction, although the PRT reported that the idea could have disastrous effects on the site, which has yet to be fully excavated and preserved.⁶⁵³

Kerbala

Governance

PRT Kerbala reported that preparations for the January 2010 national elections were underway this quarter. Election officials reported that 85% of Kerbala voters had received updated voter registration cards by mid-August.⁶⁵⁴

The PRT also reported it had worked with provincial officials this quarter to implement advanced technology systems designed to aid in government planning and agriculture, and that the PC was supporting these efforts. However,



Iraqis in Kerbala province celebrate the Shia holiday called Shabaniya. (OPA photo)

the provincial finance director refused to pay for data entry personnel for the systems, forcing the PRT to underwrite a short-term project to pay for the extra workers.⁶⁵⁵ Generally, the PRT reported improved PC governance, including activity to form a committee to ensure that decisions are carried out and completed, as well as new anticorruption efforts undertaken in conjunction with the governor's office.⁶⁵⁶

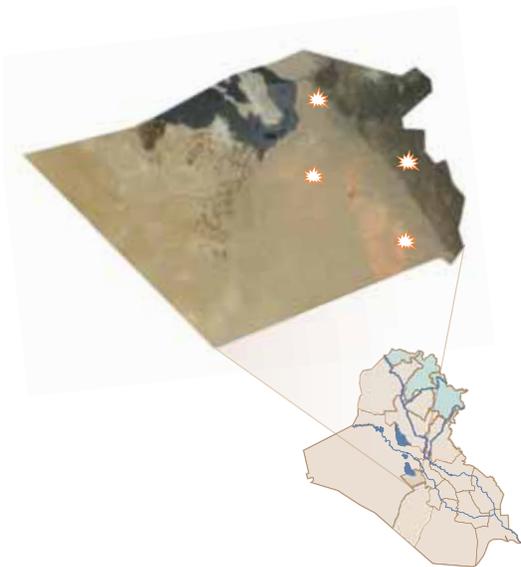
In July, the PC reported that it had received \$23 million from the central government to cover an estimated 2009 budget of \$77 million.⁶⁵⁷ By August, the PC had received 60% of its budget. To plug budget shortfalls, provincial officials were considering establishing a tax on religious tourism to the province.⁶⁵⁸ Some 420 officials attended USAID training sessions on public administration and management, including fiscal management, procurement, and anticorruption.⁶⁵⁹

Security and Rule of Law

PRT Kerbala reported that security concerns remained low this quarter. There were two roadside bombs, but neither caused damage or injury. Similarly, no security problems were reported during the Shia holy day of Shabaniya, which drew an estimated six million to seven million pilgrims to the province's main shrine. The ISF implemented a successful security plan that included an additional 20,000 security personnel, emergency medical support, and air surveillance. PRT movements

SECURITY INCIDENTS IN KERBALA

(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)
7/1/2009–10/15/2009



were restricted over the holiday, but not at other times.⁶⁶⁰ Kerbala's relatively calm security situation and predominantly Shia population have led many Shia fleeing the violence in Baghdad and Diyala to seek refuge in the province.⁶⁶¹

The RoL section reported several women's initiatives, including:⁶⁶²

- A proposal from Women for Women International to establish a program for women in war and post-conflict zones. Under funding review for an IRAP grant this quarter, the proposed year-long

course is designed to help women learn to cope with the effects of war, to teach basic human rights principles, and to offer vocational training.

- A project to develop job skills, literacy, and human rights awareness among women in western Kerbala.
- Expansion of a project to provide free legal service to women through funding of the NGO, “Women for Justice.” The PRT reported that the NGO was meeting a request from the Family Courts to provide a secure environment for parental visits with children in custody and divorce cases.⁶⁶³

Additionally, the PRT visited Baghdad Police College’s Forensics Training Lab to arrange a future tour of the facility for members of Kerbala’s legal community.⁶⁶⁴ PRT members visited the main jail and found adequate, though crowded, housing and generally good conditions. The PRT was awaiting approval of CERP and I-CERP funding for projects to build the Hindiyah Courthouse and the Ayn Tamr Courthouse.⁶⁶⁵ USAID hosted 20 conflict resolution workshops for 575 people, including local sheiks, human rights activists, and law professors.⁶⁶⁶

Infrastructure

PRT Kerbala reported that it had been instructed to maintain a high level of CERP activity through August 2010.⁶⁶⁷ Progress continued this quarter on seven I-CERP projects (five schools, a clinic, and a courthouse), three CERP projects (school bathrooms), and seven “CERP-surge” projects

U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN KERBALA

\$ Millions

SECTOR	TOTAL
Electricity	46.99
Water and Sanitation	39.00
Oil and Gas	–
Transportation and Communications	4.88
General Infrastructure	1.58
Total	92.45



Iraqis in Kerbala province attend a ceremony to inaugurate a new road. (OPA photo)

(transformers, a courthouse, a laboratory, a materials testing facility, a youth sports complex, a school renovation, and cold storage facilities).⁶⁶⁸

MND-S Brigade Commander reported that there were 14 projects underway and another 16 in the planning stages this quarter, including school and courthouse construction. Four schools were entering the “groundbreaking” phase, while two courthouses were being planned.⁶⁶⁹

USAID selected an alfalfa forage demonstration site, registered five Kerbala fish farmers for training in neighboring Babylon province, and made two agricultural micro-finance loans totaling \$8,000.⁶⁷⁰

Economy

Home to a major Shia shrine, Kerbala is one of Iraq’s foremost tourist destinations. The PIC boasted of a thriving hotel industry, including 62 resorts. Additionally, the province produces large quantities of wheat, barley, and dates.⁶⁷¹ In July the PIC announced an \$18 billion residential and commercial development on a lake funded by a UAE developer. The plan still requires approvals from the NIC and an allocation of land.⁶⁷²

The PRT reported efforts this quarter to help Iraqis develop bank lending programs for small- and medium-sized businesses in the province. A business roundtable conducted this quarter recommended improving the process for new business registrations. A second roundtable is planned for early December.⁶⁷³ PRT Kerbala

participated with USAID on two initiatives this quarter:

- technical assistance on three horticultural projects designed to import seedlings and vines, establish greenhouses, and improve post-harvest handling of fruits and vegetables
- a project to educate local farmers on forage management and to introduce salt-tolerant Bermuda grass into Iraq⁶⁷⁴

The PRT also met with German investors interested in establishing car dealerships in Kerbala. These investors were staying in local hotels, traveling in unarmored cars, and without a security detail, which PRT Kerbala interpreted as welcome signs of investor comfort with local security and the provincial investment environment.⁶⁷⁵

Najaf

Governance

Najaf's provincial government continued to receive relatively high marks this quarter in the CMM compiled by the PRT. Though the PRT did not rank Najaf self-reliant, it gave relatively high marks to the PC for national unity and political development.⁶⁷⁶ USAID trained more than 500 government officials in administration and management, including human resources and anticorruption.⁶⁷⁷

The PRT reported that the PC regularly asked for assistance in building infrastructure projects, particularly in the areas of water and electricity. Though the PRT is no longer seeking large-scale brick-and-mortar projects, the team oversaw I-CERP projects this quarter and provided advice on technical issues.⁶⁷⁸

Security and Rule of Law

The PRT reported that security incidents were rare in Najaf this quarter, but noted that its movements were limited in some areas, such as the old city of

Najaf and nearby Kufa, due to the influence of Iran and the presence of the Mahdi Army, the armed wing of Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's party.⁶⁷⁹

In RoL, lawyers working for the Women's Assistance Project opened 30 new cases. Since May 2009, the project has accepted representation on behalf of 483 widows and completed 47 cases.⁶⁸⁰ PRT Najaf reported it had made progress with access to counsel for detainees and legal services for orphans through PRT-supported NGOs.⁶⁸¹

The MND-S Brigade Commander reported that there were 6 projects being executed in Najaf and another 56 projects in the planning phase this quarter. One project underway will purchase eight generators with CERP funds to provide more electricity to commercial buildings. Four health clinics were under construction this quarter, and 27 vehicle and pedestrian bridges were in the planning stage.⁶⁸²

Infrastructure

The PRT reported that the Najaf Reconstruction Council, an Iraqi engineering organization, agreed to provide professional engineers at their own cost

SECURITY INCIDENTS IN NAJAF

(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)
7/1/2009–10/15/2009





Female lawyers at the Iraqi Women’s Assistance Project work with clients in Najaf province. (OPA photo)

at all Najaf I-CERP sites.⁶⁸³ Also this quarter, the PRT reported that work on four district health clinics continued on schedule and on budget, with more than 50% of work completed. Clinics are expected to be handed over to the Ministry of Health next quarter.⁶⁸⁴

The PRT confirmed that \$62 million worth of electric generators had been installed at the Gasak Power Plant. With the installation of the new generators, the Gasak plant will generate an additional 250 MW of electricity.⁶⁸⁵

The PC asked the PRT to help oversee I-CERP projects for schools and health centers this quarter. The PRT reported that most of the current QRF and USAID funding (IRAP) is now targeted toward government capacity building or small projects and away from brick-and-mortar projects.⁶⁸⁶

Economy

Najaf hosts a major Shia shrine and a cemetery that attract millions of pilgrims each year, and it produces large quantities of wheat, barley, rice, and dates. A state company producing tires and rubber employs about 2,400 people. The PIC hopes to expand the province’s potential for foreign investment, noting interest from Arab companies in commercial complexes and hotels.⁶⁸⁷

PRT Najaf this quarter facilitated a visit by several agricultural specialists who toured a feedlot forage site where alfalfa is being grown. The site was supplied with deep wells providing clean water. The next step is to introduce beehives to pollinate

U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN NAJAF

\$ Millions

SECTOR	TOTAL
Electricity	72.79
Water and Sanitation	60.84
Oil and Gas	—
Transportation and Communications	14.26
General Infrastructure	4.43
Total	152.31

the alfalfa flowers. The site is projected to provide 10 harvests per year and approximately 2,000 metric tons of alfalfa.⁶⁸⁸

In other areas of agriculture, PRT Najaf reported it had worked with the Najaf Agricultural Committee to obtain plastic greenhouses, promote drip irrigation systems, and diversify crops.⁶⁸⁹

Muthanna

Governance

The PRT reported that the PC functioned “reasonably well” and “without the use of violence,” though there were incidents of tribal conflict this quarter, including the brief kidnapping of a tribal sheik, who was released unharmed.⁶⁹⁰ The provincial government agreed to a five-year plan prioritizing capital investment, which the PRT plans to use as a mechanism to better identify possible CERP projects in closer cooperation with provincial officials. The PRT’s subject matter experts began taking more of a supporting role, advising government officials only when invited.⁶⁹¹

PRT Muthanna met this quarter with provincial leaders, including the Iraqi Governorate Election Office director, to assess how the PRT could support the January 2010 parliamentary elections, including using QRF/CERP funds to support voter education.⁶⁹²

Security and Rule of Law

PRT Muthanna reported that the security situation in the province remained calm this quarter. The PRT’s RoL section assisted with literacy training for prisoners and advised provincial officials on ways to alleviate overcrowding in the prison.⁶⁹³

Infrastructure

The PRT noted that Muthanna suffered in particular from a lack of water. Water-borne disease is a problem because of low water levels in the Euphrates River. This quarter, there was at least one outbreak of typhoid, which the PRT said was probably due to degraded water quality. The PRT assessed inoperative water plants and discussed emergency distribution of water, development of wells, and repair of water plants.⁶⁹⁴

This quarter, the PRT reported progress on the following projects:⁶⁹⁵

- distribution of water purification units to hospitals, youth centers, and orphanages
- construction of the Rumaytha Slaughterhouse and the Warka Slaughterhouse
- funding for seven projects, including water distribution, roads, and a four-classroom school

In addition, the GRD reported that a fuel station was 88% complete this quarter that would allow for refueling and resupplying of vehicles and equipment used by the Department of Border Enforcement in remote areas of the province.⁶⁹⁶

USAID worked with local officials to vaccinate more than 110,000 sheep and cattle, provided

SECURITY INCIDENTS IN MUTHANNA

(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)
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training to 45 veterinarians and 100 others in the agriculture industry, and promoted an artificial insemination program that has increased the province’s cattle herd.⁶⁹⁷

Economy

Sparsely populated, Muthanna’s vast desert contains oil and salt, and the province is Iraq’s main producer of cement. Provincial farmers breed poultry and produce large quantities of dates. This quarter, the governor announced plans to develop new oil wells with private investment funds, while

U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN MUTHANNA

\$ Millions

SECTOR	TOTAL
Electricity	15.02
Water and Sanitation	189.79
Oil and Gas	0.07
Transportation and Communications	19.12
General Infrastructure	3.87
Total	227.87



Iraqi children attend the grand opening of the Women’s Training and Rug Display in Muthanna province. (OPA photo)

the Ministry of Oil expanded its oil refinery in the provincial capital, Samawa, that is projected to produce 10,000 barrels per day.⁶⁹⁸

The PRT reported that Muthanna's PIC was successful this quarter in licensing well over \$1 billion in investment deals. The PRT also reported that if heavy industrial projects to produce cement, plastics, salts, cleaning products, and medical oxygen come to fruition in the next few years, the province has the potential to substantially change its economic landscape.⁶⁹⁹ One impediment to investment noted by the PRT has been the PIC's lack of access to public land.⁷⁰⁰

Thi-Qar

Governance

PRT Thi-Qar reported that the province enjoys a relatively well-developed political climate where the PC is able to mediate competing political goals in a relatively peaceful manner.⁷⁰¹ The PRT also reported success in anticorruption efforts after an influential tribal sheik and three others were jailed for extortion in an alleged reconstruction contracting scheme. The PRT leader characterized the case as proof of the effectiveness of Iraq's legal system.⁷⁰² USAID trained 280 local government officials to deal with the effects of political and tribal affiliations on governance.⁷⁰³

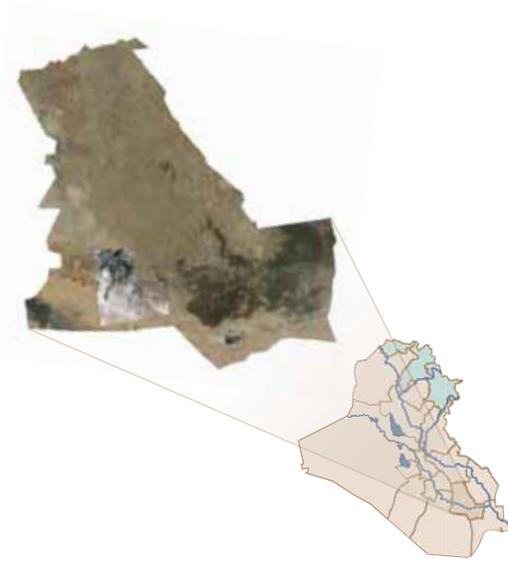
The PRT and USAID reported aiding the PC in its preparation of the provincial budget and training in governance issues, including the use of technology, and the formulation of a provincial development strategy.⁷⁰⁴

Security and Rule of Law

Thi-Qar had few security incidents this quarter, though local police found caches of weapons and defused bombs. Despite the success touted in the arrest of the sheik on corruption charges, the PRT reported that the province's chief judge complained that provincial police and judges did not know how

SECURITY INCIDENTS IN THI-QAR

(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)
7/1/2009–10/15/2009



to use technology to build cases and did not cooperate with one another.⁷⁰⁵ Training continued in this area, however, with ISF members from seven provinces attending a one-day seminar on the collection, preservation, and exploitation of forensic evidence found at bombing sites.⁷⁰⁶

Infrastructure

PRT Thi-Qar sought CERP funds for water and veterinary care, among other sectors this quarter, including:

- a proposal to construct a surgical unit at the Thi-Qar Veterinary Hospital⁷⁰⁷
- a proposal for a reverse osmosis system to upgrade existing water networks⁷⁰⁸

PRT Thi-Qar reported working with the provincial government to draw up proposals for CERP-funded brick-and-mortar projects.⁷⁰⁹

Economy

The PRT funded several agricultural training programs this quarter:

U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN THI-QAR
\$ Millions

SECTOR	TOTAL
Electricity	106.67
Water and Sanitation	399.69
Oil and Gas	0.43
Transportation and Communications	21.42
General Infrastructure	13.06
Total	541.26

- Ten farmers from Suk al-Shuyukh and Chubaish were trained at Camp Mittica in the production of dairy product. The Farmers Union will distribute the milk and cheese during Ramadan.⁷¹⁰
- Students from the Akad Palm Station were trained in procedures for safer date harvesting, including mechanized harvest techniques.⁷¹¹
- The Farmers Union received 6,000 newly hatched chickens this quarter, and all chicks at the Nassriya rearing site were vaccinated.⁷¹²
- A CERP funding request was pending for the construction and outfitting of a fish hatchery, which is designed to have an output of 10 million carp fingerlings to supply juvenile stocks for all the fish farms in Thi-Qar.⁷¹³

The PRT reported that in an absence of national policies that would create a more propitious environment for a market-led, entrepreneurial business environment, economic development remains a challenge.⁷¹⁴

Missan

Governance

PRT Missan reported that access to provincial government officials continued to improve this quarter, and that the governor had encouraged provincial leaders to work with the PRT. It also reported that this was due in part to significant cuts in the 2009 provincial capital budget and

to what the PRT called the “profligate spending” of the previous PC.⁷¹⁵ One PC member asked specifically for assistance for reconciliation workshops intended to help tribal leaders resolve disputes peacefully.⁷¹⁶

The PRT worked with provincial leaders regarding voter registration in the January 2010 elections and met with representatives from the NGO “Towards Democracy” to discuss voter education program proposals.⁷¹⁷ As the elections draw near, the PRT plans also to focus on increasing contacts with political parties and journalists to facilitate political reporting.⁷¹⁸

USAID completed training on bylaws for PC members, setting up committees and assisting them in creating budgets. USAID also trained about 680 provincial officials in public administration and management, including fiscal management, procurement, and anticorruption.⁷¹⁹

Security and Rule of Law

The PRT reported an “improved yet irregular” security situation that included more willingness by Iraqi Police escorts to assist in movements around the province. However it reported continuing small-arms fire directed against the U.S. military’s FOB.⁷²⁰

Despite the lack of an RoL advisor for some of the quarter, the PRT reported it had developed an excellent working relationship with provincial judges and was able to arrange for two investigative judges to participate for the first time in two days of training on evidence collection methods conducted by the U.S. military.⁷²¹

Infrastructure

The PRT reported that provincial leaders were relying this quarter on the successful completion of several large building projects, including the 70-bed Missan Surgical Hospital and the 23-kilometer Amarah-Maimouna Carriageway—but the status of both projects has been in question:

- Missan Surgical Hospital: Health Attaché staffers worked with the GOI this quarter to determine the Iraqi government’s level of commitment to

SECURITY INCIDENTS IN MISSAN

(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)
7/1/2009–10/15/2009



the ESF-funded hospital. Last quarter, SIGIR reported that the hospital project was behind schedule and had construction deficiencies, and there was concern that further work on the hospital might be cancelled.⁷²² But the Health Attaché reported that construction was under way and progress was being made to resolve outstanding issues.⁷²³

- Amarah-Maimouna Carriageway: GRD announced this quarter that the Maimouna Carriageway project would not be reactivated after a GRD-selected contractor defaulted in early 2009 at approximately 80% completion. Citing lack of funds to correct deficiencies and complete the project, as well as the challenges of operating in Misan, GRD proposed terminating the project or turning it over to some other U.S. government entity if additional funding can be identified. The PRT reported that the provincial government considers the carriageway project its #2 priority and is eager to assist the U.S. government in completing the project.⁷²⁴

U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN MISSAN

\$ Millions

SECTOR	TOTAL
Electricity	76.31
Water and Sanitation	20.26
Oil and Gas	0.06
Transportation and Communications	14.06
General Infrastructure	6.32
Total	117.01

Elsewhere in the province, responsibility for operating two water compact unit rehabilitation projects was turned over to provincial leaders this quarter. These \$300,000 projects are intended to improve the public health and quality of life of more than 22,000 residents in the area. The units had been operating at 50% of capacity before the renovation and are now functioning at 100%.⁷²⁵

Economy

Misan has suffered from a crumbling infrastructure and poor access to resources.⁷²⁶ But its eastern side has large oil fields and the province produces large quantities of wool, fish, sugar, and paper. The PIC hopes to exploit natural gas as well as oil.⁷²⁷

The PRT reported that its economic advisor met with members of the Mobile Agricultural Training



Soldiers from the 7th Engineering Battalion inspect a bridge in Misan province. (MNF-I photo)

Team who provide training, information, and assistance to women and girls in rural agricultural communities. The team has asked the PRT for assistance in delivering their programs to women and girls residing in the rural areas.⁷²⁸

Basrah

Governance

PRT Basrah reported this quarter that the province lagged behind many others in governance, economic development, and the RoL, which the PRT attributed to years of war and repression. The PRT reported that overcoming these governance and economic problems was critical because roughly 50% of Iraq's GDP originates in Basrah, primarily in the oil industry, but also in other areas. The majority of Iraq's trade transits Basrah's pipelines, ports, and roads.⁷²⁹

PRT Basrah reported it was working this quarter to steer Iraqi stakeholders away from reliance on U.S. government funding to improve essential services. In anticipation of Basrah obtaining budget resources from the national government in 2010 to fund operations and the most urgent capital investment needs, PRT Basrah has begun transitioning to a strictly government capacity-building role.⁷³⁰ The PRT also reported that the stable security situation had allowed the PRT and USAID to focus on improving the ability of local officials to govern.⁷³¹

Security and Rule of Law

There were few security incidents in Basrah this quarter, with only three incidents occurring in which more than two people were killed, including the murder of two minority Mandaean. The PRT reported that COB Basrah continued this quarter to receive indirect fire and that one such attack had killed three soldiers in July. Military movements also came under attack. The PRT noted a need for additional troops to secure



A consortium of Iraqi and American companies discuss the Basrah Sports City Project prior to the groundbreaking ceremony on July 15, 2009. (OPA photo)

SECURITY INCIDENTS IN BASRAH

(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)
7/1/2009–10/15/2009



movements and allow the PRT to move during the January 2010 elections.⁷³²

The PRT reported that RoL efforts in Basrah have a brick-and-mortar component, including the U.S.-funded construction of a \$10 million provincial courthouse, two other major courthouse construction projects, and the construction of a prison. The PRT reported that these projects had led to significant goodwill among local judges, corrections officials, and police. It

also reported what it called a “strategic need to inoculate against malevolent Iranian influence” by showing the populace that essential services are improving under the new Iraq.⁷³³

The PRT also reported that judicial intimidation and corruption remained concerns. The PRT noted a lack of identified and trustworthy civil society RoL partners. The relationship with the local Iraq Bar Association and Iraqi Jurist Union was poor because of recalcitrant and obstructive leadership, despite a \$300,000 project to renovate the IJU’s building in 2008. The PRT sought this quarter to change these relationships.⁷³⁴

Infrastructure

PRT Basrah continued this quarter to oversee the implementation of more than \$100 million in brick-and-mortar projects.⁷³⁵ The Garma Water Reverse Feeding project was 92% complete this quarter. Once completed, the facility will be capable of providing potable water for up to 220,000 people in Basrah.⁷³⁶

U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN BASRAH

\$ Millions

SECTOR	TOTAL
Electricity	543.46
Water and Sanitation	238.32
Oil and Gas	558.55
Transportation and Communications	171.80
General Infrastructure	8.39
Total	1,520.52

Economy

The PRT reported two important events this quarter that were likely to affect Basrah’s economic development and business environment:⁷³⁷

- construction of a \$485 million sports center
- refurbishment of the Rumaila oil field under the contract awarded in the first round of bidding for oil service contracts

The PRT worked with the PIC to leverage these events to bring foreign investment to the province.♦