

State of Play

June 2011

Introduction

Years of conflict and insecurity in Iraq have had a detrimental effect on the country's infrastructure and the provision of basic public services. The restoration of a minimally acceptable level of public service provision is a fundamental step in normalising and improving the quality of life of the population. Therefore, the European Union (EU) continues to place significant emphasis on the **support to the provision of basic services**. This edition of the **EU-Iraq Development Co-operation State of Play** provides an overview of EU support in the area of basic services such as education, health and water and sanitation (*see Section 1*).

The **EU 2010 Assistance Programme for Iraq** financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) was approved in December last and this State of Play presents some details on that programme (*see Section 2*).

This State of Play also gives an account of the proposed **EU 2011 Assistance Programme** which is currently going through the decision-making process (*see Section 3*). This proposed programme is based on the Country Strategy Paper for Iraq for the period 2011-2013.

In addition to the specific financial envelope under the DCI, Iraq also has access to **other EU funding instruments**. These include the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and the thematic programmes of the DCI (*see Section 4*).

Furthermore, programmes in the area of good governance and the rule of law are complemented by activities of the **European Union Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX - Iraq)**, a civilian crisis management operation under the auspices of the European Common Security and Defence Policy (*see Section 5*).

This State of Play provides a concise **overview of EU assistance for the period 2003-2010** (*see section 6*). Finally, *Section 7* is a table setting out the EU support to Iraq since 2003.

1. EU support to the provision of basic services

Support to basic services in Iraq remains a key focus for the EU, with assistance to health, education and water & sanitation services amounting to over €83 million since 2004. Up to 2007 this support was primarily implemented through the UN arm of the IRFFI¹. The Commission's contribution was co-mingled with other donors' funds for the implementation of projects to support the Government of Iraq in providing basic services to the population. Since 2008 the focus of EU assistance has gradually moved away from infrastructure rehabilitation to capacity and institution building to assist Iraq in mobilising its own resources to improve the welfare of the population.



A rehabilitated latrine and hand washing facility in Al-Khahla'a school, Missan as part of an EU funded project implemented by UNICEF (Photo: UNICEF)

In the **water and sanitation sector**, assistance has been provided through a wide range of projects. Specific examples of the results of some projects include: increased access to safe water through rehabilitation of treatment units, extension of networks and construction of storage tanks in districts in the governorates of Basra, Wasit, Kirkuk, Suleimaniyah and Erbil; improved environmental

¹ The International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI) is a multilateral mechanism established in 2004 which consists of two distinct trust funds, the United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund (UNDG ITF) and the World Bank Iraq Trust Fund (WB ITF).

conditions in Basra through the rehabilitation of a main sewage treatment plant; and strengthened capacity of governmental staff in procurement of specialised equipment and supplies, and in improved operation and management of water and sanitation systems.

As part of the Commission's *2008 Assistance Package*, one programme (€7 million) implemented by UNICEF seeks to improve access to water and sanitation services particularly for women and girls; strengthen the institutional set-up for medium to long term planning; and strengthen the Government's capacity for policy development. While implementation of this project is still underway, results to date include the construction and upgrading of water systems in villages in the Governorates of Diyala and Thi-qar, collectively benefitting over 12,000 people; construction of storm sewer lines in Erbil governorate; assessment of water and sewage design centres in 15 governorates and distribution of technical design handbooks; and preparation of training packages and subsequent delivery of training of trainers.

The EU has devoted a total of €127 million to the Iraqi *health sector* to date. Assistance has been provided via the IRFFI for the revitalisation of the primary health care system in Iraq, in particular through infrastructure rehabilitation, provision of supplies and equipment, training of staff, and revision of policies and strategies. Programmes also supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) in terms of disease prevention, control, eradication and elimination. Completed projects include rehabilitation of Tikrit and Ramadi hospitals, and construction of the Maternity and Children's Hospital in Fallujah; while another project focused on improving the power supply to medical centres.

The Commission's *2008 Assistance Package* includes a programme aimed at strengthening specialised medical services in support of Iraq's national health strategy. This programme, implemented by the World Health Organisation, has an envelope of €13 million and is working to improve the functioning of the national and regional blood bank services to ensure the availability of blood products and reduce transmission of communicable diseases through blood transfusion. In parallel, support is being provided to emergency medical services in order to improve pre-hospital services, in-hospital emergency services and long-term care and mental health support. With

implementation still underway the project has for example resulted in more than 1865 Iraqis receiving quality-assured internal and external training in reputable institutions and WHO Collaborating Centers such as the Jordanian Directorate of Blood Banks, American University of Beirut, and Asian Disaster and Preparedness Center; implementation of many activities and interventions to ensure that underserved areas can have access to improved blood transfusion services; and updating of the Blood Safety Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures by the MoH, in consultation with WHO.

In the *education sector*, EU support has sought to enhance access to, and improve participation and completion at all levels of education in Iraq. Projects implemented via the IRFFI have aimed at rehabilitation of schools; developing an improved learning environment through the provision of teaching and learning materials; enhancing policy formulation and curriculum development; and, improving health and nutrition of students.



Children art competition during World Water Day Celebrations in Al Fitwa primary school for girls and boys in Mosul city, Ninewa Governorate as part of an EU funded project implemented by UNICEF (Photo: UNICEF)

Implementation of two new education programmes, part of the 2009 assistance package, is now underway. One programme, implemented by UNICEF, seeks to improve access to quality education in Iraq, especially for girls, by supporting the revision of existing government policies and development of new policies and initiatives that will improve the quality of the Iraqi education system at primary level; build the capacity of the government to implement the new policies and initiatives; and mobilise community support for improved retention and increased enrolment of out-of-school girls and



boys.

The second programme, implemented by the British Council, aims to expand work previously undertaken on teaching and learning, leadership and management, and school standards; improve the quality and relevance of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) by working on a coherent TVET strategy and action programme developing a sector-based approach and replicable model for competency-based qualifications and curricula; and equipping TVET institutions to manage the delivery of competency-based TVET; and improve the quality and relevance of physical education (PE) and sport in Iraq through establishing Specialist Sports Colleges (SSC), improving curriculum for PE and sport in schools, developing leadership in young people through sport and awareness of the value of PE and sport with parents and the wider community.

2. EU Assistance Programme for Iraq 2010

The 2010 Assistance Programme, approved in December 2010, is an integral part of the two-year integrated assistance package for Iraq for the period 2009-2010 which focuses on capacity building in the area of 'Good Governance' and the delivery of 'Basic Services'.

The overall objective of the 2010 programme is to support Iraq's capacity to use its own resources in an effective manner for the delivery of quality public services such as health, support to displaced persons and to develop good governance and the rule of law. The programme comprises four components for a total of over €24 million.

Component 1: Support to health services – with a budget of €10 million this component aims at improving the health sector's response to the growing healthcare needs in the country. Among other, the focus of this programme will be the improvement of human resource development; improving access of vulnerable populations to essential healthcare services; and the strengthening of the Ministry of Health's institutional capacity for better programming in areas of prevention and control of diseases.

Component 2: Enabling environment for IDPs, returnees and refugees – with an allocation of €7 million this component seeks to build the capacity of

relevant Iraqi authorities to improve the lives of IDPs, returnees and refugees. The support will help to establish adequate migration policies and procedures, to support the institutional development of migration authorities and to provide trainings on technical issues.

Component 3: Support to civil society development – with an envelope of over €5 million this component will contribute to the stability of Iraq by enhancing the role of civil society in improved democratic governance processes. The role of the Iraqi civil society is currently limited by a number of interrelated factors including the capacity gap of Iraqi NGOs. This component is divided into two sub-components, one of which will be implemented via a competitive call for proposals targeting non-state actors implementing projects in Iraq and which will be published on our website.

Component 4: Higher legal education – with a budget of €1.9 million this component aims to reduce the current educational gap of the Iraqi academia in an effort to reconnect Iraqi higher legal educational institutions with their European counterparts. Trainings and updated scientific teaching material will help the Iraqi academics to implement modern teaching methods to reinforce the rule of law.

The text of the Commission decision as well as the full description for this programme can be found at the following web address:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/ap/aap/2010_en.htm

The activities under this 2010 programme will be started as soon as the respective Financing Agreement between the European Union and the Iraqi Government is signed.

3. EU Assistance Programme for Iraq 2011

In line with the objectives of the Country Strategy Paper and Multi-annual Indicative Programme for Iraq for the period 2011-2013, the proposed 2011 assistance package focuses on Water Management. The Country Strategy Paper and Multi-annual Indicative Programme can be consulted at: http://eeas.europa.eu/iraq/index_en.htm

The programme was developed in close collaboration with Iraq's authorities and following extensive consultations with other donors and NGOs. The proposed programme will assist the Government in establishing a comprehensive water management system which is economically efficient, equitable and



environmentally sustainable. In addition the program takes into account Government priorities and ongoing and planned activities of other donors. Three components have been identified: improvement of the capacity for integrated groundwater resources management; development of a water supply monitoring system; and awareness-raising activities on water related issues for the population. More details on this programme will be available in the next edition of the State of Play.

4. Support through Thematic Operations

In addition to the DCI (Development Co-operation Instrument) country-specific envelope for co-operation activities with Iraq, other instruments are available to fund Iraq-based projects. These include the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and DCI-funded thematic initiatives, such as Investing in People; Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in development; and Migration and Asylum.

Regular calls for proposals under all these initiatives are published on the EuropeAid website, and after a competitive selection procedure, grants are awarded to fund the best proposals. NGOs and other eligible organisations seeking to implement projects in Iraq should regularly monitor the following EuropeAid website, where the launch and progress of all calls for proposals is made: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm

A number of projects financed under these thematic operations are already underway. Activities focus on capacity building of Iraqi civil society organisations; improving the awareness of, and enhancing respect for, human rights; development of the media sector in Iraq; improving the protection of, and access to, Iraqi cultural heritage by strengthening the capacities of Iraqi libraries in managing and preserving their resources.

More information on these funding instruments is available at the following address:

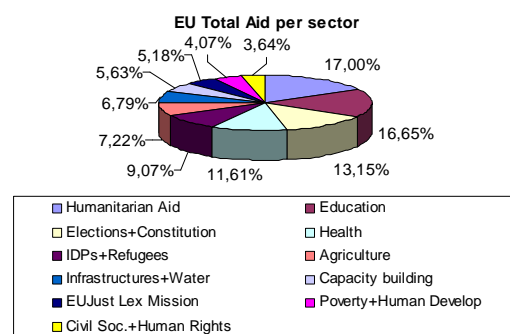
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/index_en.htm

5. EU JUSTLEX-Iraq

The European Union Integrated Rule of Law mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX-Iraq) is a civilian crisis management operation under the auspices of the Common Security and Defence Policy. The EUJUST LEX-Iraq Mission has committed over €60 million to date. The mission got underway in July 2005 and has been recently extended until June 30th 2012. It aims to strengthen the rule of law and promote a culture of respect for human rights in Iraq. EUJUST LEX-Iraq provides professional development opportunities to senior Iraqi officials from the criminal justice system. Its activities are harmonised with the Commission's ongoing "Rule of Law and Justice" project in Iraq aimed at supporting judicial institutions as well as strengthening the national human rights protection system. From July 2005 to October 2010 EUJUST LEX-Iraq has delivered 207 training courses and a total of 4100 Iraqi justice, police and penitentiary officials have received training under the mission. For more information on EUJUST LEX-Iraq please visit the following website of the mission: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showPage.aspx?id=823&lang=en>

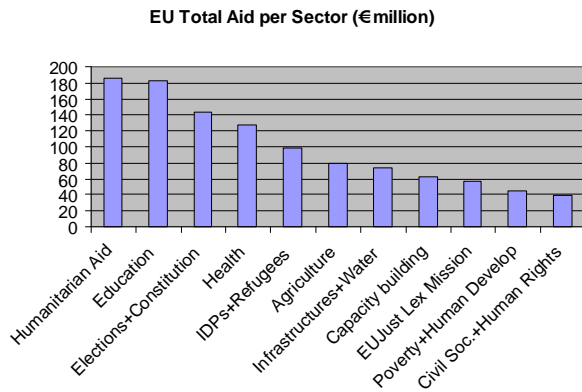
6. Overview of EU support to Iraq 2003 - 2010

EU support to Iraq from 2003 to 2010 amounts to over €1094 million. This includes reconstruction support, amounting to €51.5 million, humanitarian assistance, with a total of €85.8 million, and support delivered through the EU JUSTLEX mission of €6.7 million. A detailed table with this support is available at the end of this document. The **reconstruction part** of this assistance, which is implemented by the Commission, is illustrated in the pie chart and graphic shown below.





In line with the main objective of the Commission aid to Iraq, almost half of the aid has been allocated to the development of basic services and almost one quarter has been used in Human Development sectors. The balance has been attributed to electoral support and institutional capacity building.



From 2004 to 2007 the Commission support was mainly channelled through the IRFFI – the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq, a multilateral mechanism established in 2004. The IRFFI consists of two distinct trust funds, working

independently but in a co-ordinated way: the UNDG ITF and the WB ITF.

Channelling funds through the IRFFI has had considerable advantages in a period where reconstruction work in Iraq was extremely difficult. It has allowed the international community to combine their efforts through a common strategy and action channel. Working through the IRFFI has also enabled the Commission to acquire knowledge which is invaluable for future EU activities in Iraq. The IRFFI is currently in the process of being closed, and the last projects were approved just before the deadline of 30/09/2010 that was set by the donors for project approval. The trust fund will be closed when the last project that it is funding completes its implementation.

From 2008 onwards, the approach of channelling funds via the IRFFI was progressively replaced by bilateral actions, in recognition of the increasing capacity for dialogue and leadership of the Iraqi Government in the administration of the reconstruction efforts.

7. EU support to Iraq (all figures in €million)

	Reconstruction Support under DCI TOTAL	Humanitarian Aid support TOTAL	Support managed by the European Commission SUB TOTAL	EUJUST LEX support under CFSP/ESDP TOTAL	EU support TOTAL
2003	42.0	100.0	142.0	-	142.0
2004	176.5	-	176.5	-	176.5
2005	200.0	-	200.0	10.0	210.0
2006	200.0	-	200.0	11.2	211.2
2007	92.7	17.8	110.5	-	110.5
2008	74.1	30.0	104.1	7.2	111.3
2009	42.0	20.0	62.0	10.8	72.8
2010	24.2	18.0	42.2	17.5	59.7
2011	15.7*	10.0	25.7	4.8	30.5
TOTAL	867.2	195.8	1063.0	61.5	1,124.5

* Reconstruction support for 2011 is still under approval. The figures presented for 2011 are provisional.

**You can find more information on EU co-operation with Iraq on our website:
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/gulf-region/country-cooperation/iraq/iraq_en.htm**