

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Office of Transition Initiatives
Program Title:	Office of Transition Initiatives
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	965-001
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$150,770,000 IRRF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$16,283,218 IRRF
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	
Year of Initial Obligation:	
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	

Summary: The Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI's) strategic objective in Iraq is to assist Iraqis in building: legitimate national, regional, and local governments; democratic, competitive political parties; open and transparent elections; objective and robust media; and a vibrant civil society that includes wide-ranging civic education, effective and well-managed non-governmental organizations, and activities that focus on women and youth.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: In FY 2005 in Iraq, OTI expects to manage \$200 million in non-TI funds in support of U. S. Government efforts to bring democracy and peace to this country. OTI anticipates that it will provide approximately 2,000 small grants for reconstruction and rehabilitation of community infrastructure. The flexibility of USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) small grants mechanism allows for a wide range of programming, and permits USAID/OTI to respond quickly to the changing needs of the dynamic situation in Iraq. Support will continue to civic programs and civil society infrastructure development. In addition, promotion of civic education and citizen participation, with an emphasis on supporting activities that foster the political and social engagement of women and youth, will continue.

Resources will be directed toward groups implementing programs to increase the capacity of women to organize, to advocate, and to gain professional skills. The establishment of women's centers and shelters for abused women in under-served areas will continue and expand to reach the southern governorates of Basrah, Al-Muthanna, Thi-Qar and Missan. Several short-term training programs for women, teaching skills in presentation, advocacy, organization, and participation in politics will be funded. Courses for women in information technology and sewing skills, to expand the economic opportunities available to women in Iraq, and conferences and seminars held by women's groups will be provided.

Youth initiatives that encourage democratic decision-making and a hope in the peaceful future of Iraq will continue through small grants to student and university groups and faculties. In addition, youth activities such as sports tournaments and cultural events to keep the young people of Iraq positively engaged in their communities will be supported.

Funding for local non-governmental organizations will permit projects such as town hall meetings, seminars, lectures, conferences, art exhibits, and dialogue sessions that educate Iraqis about democracy and the current political transition, while encouraging them to be informed participants in the process.

Support also will be provide to assist local media outlets to develop public affairs programming such as public service announcements, call-in talk shows and town hall meetings to foster greater public understanding. Efforts to renovate public spaces such as community and youth centers, Chambers of Commerce, theaters, and stadiums will provide Iraq's civil society with places to meet.

FY 2006 Program: No Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Funds (IRRF) are being requested for FY 2006.

Performance and Results: In FY 2005, OTI performance and results will reflect achievements under its office-wide indicators.