Iraq Weekly Status Report

January 14, 2009

Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs U.S. Department of State

Unclassified

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- Amendment Proposed to Guarantee Women 25% Quota on Provincial Councils (*POLITICAL*, page 4).
- Iraq Accedes to Chemical Weapons Ban (SECURITY, page 10).
- Iraq's Customs Authority Collects \$226 Million in Revenue (ECONOMIC, page 15).
- Vice President-elect Joseph Biden Visits Baghdad January 12 (*DIPLOMATIC*, page 24).

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



Amendment Proposed to Guarantee Women 25% Quota on Provincial Councils:

• After discovering discrepancies in the 2008 Provincial Elections Law in the official Gazette, the Women, Family and Childhood Committee suggested amending Article 13 to establish Provincial Council seat quotas for women. The committee rewrote the article to clarify previously existing ambiguities, and submitted it to both the Legal, and the Regions and Provinces committees January 11. The revised article will guarantee female candidates at least 25% of the total seats in the provincial, district, and subdistrict councils. Female candidates are already campaigning for elections and Anbar province alone has 131 women listed out of the total 500-person ballot.

Council of Representatives Reconvenes Without Speaker:

• On January 11, Iraq's Parliament, the Council of Representatives (CoR), reconvened from recess, but were unable to pick a new speaker to replace former CoR speaker Mahmoud Mashadani, who resigned in December. Tawafuq, a Sunni coalition, believes that the new speaker should come from its rank. However, after Mashadani resigned, five members from his National Dialogue Council withdrew from Tawafuq and recent disagreement over Mashadani's successor has caused four more lawmakers to withdraw from the Sunni bloc. Regardless of Tawafuq's claim to succession, several other Sunnis parties are submitting names for the position of CoR speaker.

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



<u>Iraqi Government Revokes Elections' Code of Conduct for Journalists:</u>

• The Iraqi government removed a mandate requiring journalists to sign a code of conduct in order to be permitted to cover the 2009 provincial elections. The code of conduct required journalists to only write news stories that are balanced and unbiased. Furthermore, the code prevented the media from reporting on candidates or political campaigns two days before the elections begin. Critics noted that such a code could undermine independent media coverage and, after receiving many complaints, Iraq's High Electoral Commission chief Faraj al-Haidari removed the code of conduct requirement.

KRG Officials to be Included in UN Activities:

• The Iraqi government will allow Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) officials to be included as members of its official delegations to UN meetings in New York and Geneva and will also be present at meetings of the UN's various specialized agencies, including the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq.

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



<u>Iraqi Government to Remove Squatters:</u>

• The Iraqi government is giving illegal squatters 60 days to leave government buildings and land or they will face legal consequences. News of the evictions sparked protests in Baghdad. However, the Iraqi government also stated it will give squatters financial assistance to find alternative residences, as well as begin a media campaign to help raise awareness of the issue.

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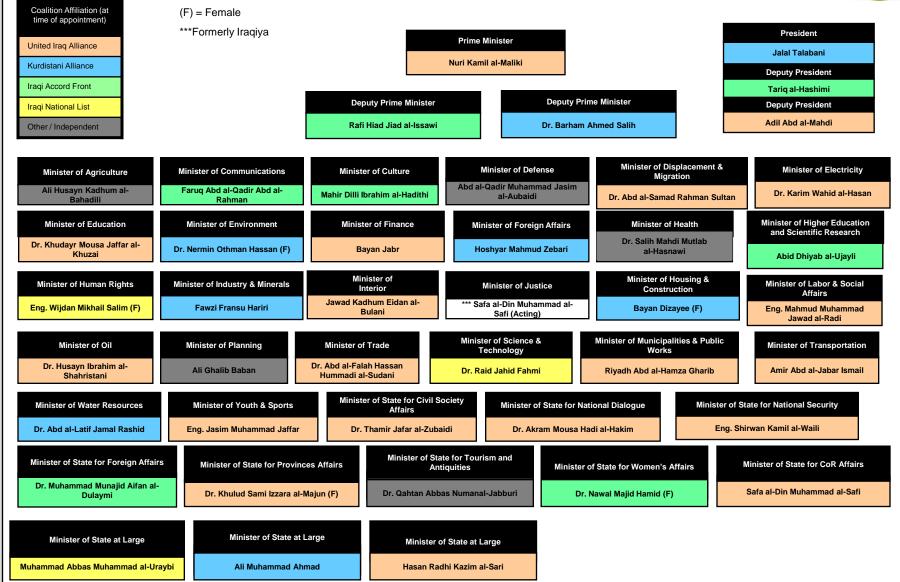
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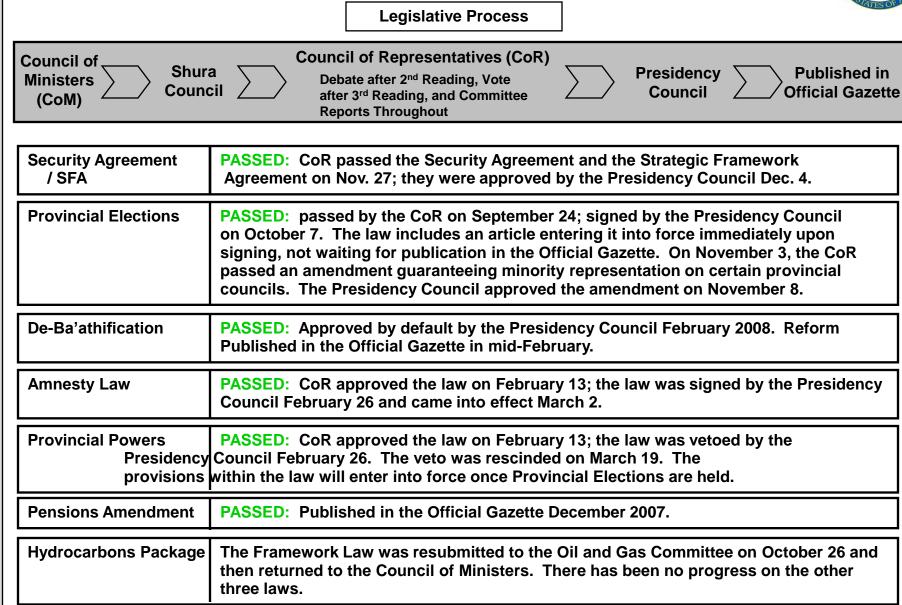
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POLITICAL - Government of Iraq



POLITICAL – Key Legislation





POLITICAL - Refugee Update



- Refugees in the region: 2-2.4 million
- Internally displaced persons in Iraq: 2.7 million
- The U.S. admitted 13,823 Iraqi refugees in FY08 (which ended September 30).
- The U.S. seeks to admit a minimum of 17,000 Iraqi refugees in FY09.
- In FY2008, a total of 1,142 Special Immigrant Visa (SIVs) were issued for Afghan and Iraqi translators and interpreters (under the Section 1059 program).
- In FY 2008, a total of 705 SIVs were issued (under the Section 1244 program).

SECURITY - Situation Update



Iraq Accedes to Chemical Weapons Ban:

• The United Nations announced January 13 that Iraq acceded to the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention, an international treaty banning the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons. Iraq is the 186th nation to accede to the treaty. Under the Saddam Hussein regime, Iraq used chemical weapons in its war with Iran as well as against Kurdish civilians in northern Iraq, killing thousands. A statement from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon congratulated Iraq for acceding to the treaty, saying, "It demonstrates its (Iraq's) commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation."

<u>Iraqi Security Forces Announce Capture of Insurgent Leader:</u>

• Iraqi Security Force officials announced that the leader of the insurgent group Ansar al-Sunna was captured in western Baghdad December 18. The Iraqi security spokesman identified Thayer Kadhim Abid Salman al-Surawi as the commander of the extremist group suspected of carrying out numerous bomb attacks and assassinations. The U.S. military has not confirmed the capture.

Sadr Calls for Increase in Attacks Against U.S. in Response to Gaza Offensive:

• Shi'a cleric Muqtada al-Sadr called for "revenge operations" against the U.S. military in protest to Israel's Gaza offensive. The statement said, "I call upon the honest Iraqi resistance to carry out revenge operations against the great accomplice of the Zionist enemy." In response, U.S. Department of State spokesman Robert Wood said "...any outside calls to attack Americans for what's going on in the region are outrageous." Sadr also urged that Palestinian flags be raised on mosques, churches and buildings in Iraq in a show of solidarity and that all countries close Israeli embassies.

SECURITY – Security Transition



Camp Fallujah Transferred to Government of Iraq Control:

• Major General Martin Post, Deputy Commanding General of Multi-National Force — West, officially transferred control of Camp Fallujah to the Government of Iraq (GOI) during a ceremony January 12. Camp Fallujah is the most recent in a series of bases transferred to the GOI by MNF-West throughout Anbar province, to include al-Qaim, Habbaniyah, Haditha Dam, Camp Ramadi, and several smaller outposts. MNF-West remains ready to support the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) in providing security in Anbar province, a role the ISF has readily and successfully assumed.

Iraqi Air Force Operations Expanding in Wasit Province:

• The Iraqi Air Force continues to expand operations at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Delta in Al Kut, Wasit province with help from U.S. Air Force advisors of the Coalition Air Force Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command- Iraq (MNSTC-I). Iraqi Air Force Brigadier General Akeel, the Al Kut commanding general, is leading the effort to rebuild the infrastructure at the base, upgrading logistical support to equipment and aircraft and transitioning Air Force personnel from temporary to permanent housing. Future plans include stationing Iraqi Air Force Mi-17 helicopters and an Intelligence-Surveillance-Reconnaissance (ISR) ground station for downloading data from ISR aircraft at the FOB.

SECURITY – Security Transition



375 Iraqi Officer Cadets Graduate from Ar Rustamiyah Military Academy:

• Some 241 Iraqi Army and 134 Iraqi Air Force cadets graduated from the Basic Officers Commissioning Course at Ar Rustamiyah Military Academy January 12. The NATO Training Mission – Iraq has supported training efforts at the Academy since 2005, with more than 2,000 cadets graduating during that time. The 12-month commissioning course focuses on leadership and ethics training but also covers tactics, weapons, physical fitness, first aid, current affairs and geography. Along with those completing the 12-month curriculum, cadets holding university degrees graduated after completing six months of intensive training.

SECURITY - Iraqi Security Forces

Iraq Security Forces as of Nov. 30, 2008 a								
Component	Current Authorized Assigned Personnel b c		Total Trained Personnel to date d					
Ministry of Interior (Mol) Forces ^e								
Iraqi Police Service f	334,739	309,965	219,342					
National Police g	46,580	40,712	52,707					
Border Enforcement	45,550	40,888	38,389					
Total Mol	426,869	385,565	310,438					
Ministry of Defense (MoD) Forces h								
Army	174,055	196,698	238,191					
Army Training and Support Forces i	22,345	22,724	22,930					
Air Force	3,690	2,071	2,941					
Navy	3,596	1,898	1,494					
Total MoD	203,686	223,391	265,556					
Counter Terrorism Bureau								
Special Operations j	6,190	4,150	4,564					
Total Iraqi Security Forces	636,745	613,106	580,558					

- a. Numbers do not include ministry staffs.
- b. Numbers reflect Government of Iraq (GOI) authorizations.
- c. Numbers are based upon GOI payroll data and do not reflect present for duty totals.
- d. Numbers reflect total Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) personnel trained to date, some of which are no longer assigned due to casualties, AWOL, and normal separation.
- e. MoI strength excludes other services within Ministry Of Interior (MOI), including the MOI HQ, MOI Forensics, Facility Protection Services, and contracted guards.
- f. The Iraqi Police Service consists of all provincial police forces (station, patrol, traffic, and special units) assigned to all 18 Iraqi provinces.
- g. Includes the national Emergency Response Unit.
- h. The Ministry Of Defense (MOD) authorized numbers are derived from Modified Tables of Organization and Equipment (MTOEs).
- i. The MoD Army Training and Support Forces include logistics units and training center cadre.
- j. Does not include personnel assigned to Counterterrorism Bureau (CTB) or Counterterrorism Command (CTC) headquarters.
- k. 6792 increased authorized Training and Support Forces based on pay data due to consolidation of approved MTOEs signed by the MinDef updating current data. Percent assigned now represents a more realistic figure (101%) vs. previous reported (150%) assigned.

ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update



U.S. Helping to Revive Iraq's Dairy Industry:

• The Marine Corps recently purchased and allocated 50 cows for 50 Iraqi widows as a small step in the effort to reestablish Iraq's once-strong dairy industry and assist women and children whose livelihoods have been affected by violence. The Marine Corps also commissioned the Land O'Lakes dairy company to examine the Iraqi dairy industry. In the report, they found that there was substantial growth potential for the industry in the country, whose local dairy producers only produce enough milk to meet 5% of Iraq's demand. Iraq's dairy industry still faces sizeable obstacles, such as neglected or damaged facilities, poor cattle feed, a dearth of veterinarians, and the effects of three decades of centralized planning which stymied innovation.

ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update



<u>Iraq's Customs Authority Collects \$226 Million in Revenue:</u>

• The Customs Authority in Iraq has collected \$226 million in revenues between January 1 and November 30, 2008, an increase of \$95.52 million from the previous year. The statement released by the authority did not elaborate on the reasons behind the increase.

ECONOMIC - Oil



Crude Oil Update:

Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:

Basrah Light at \$40.49/barrel

Dated Brent at \$46.31/barrel

WTI Cushing at \$44.45/barrel

Oman/Dubai at \$48.08/barrel

Revenue estimates:

2006: \$31.3 Billion

2007: \$41.0 Billion

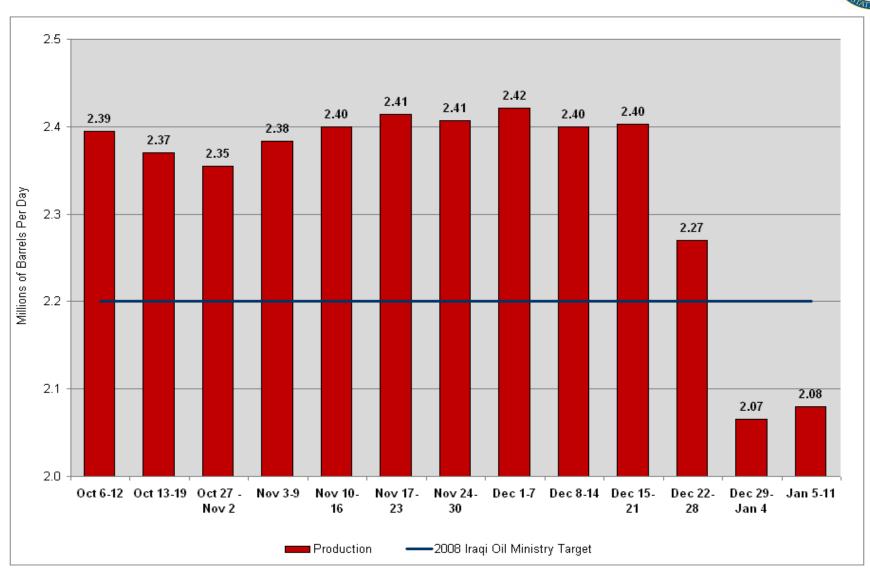
2008: \$60.9 Billion

Pipeline Explosion en Route to Basrah's Refinery:

• A pipeline carrying crude oil to the refinery in Basrah exploded January 11, resulting in a large fire, Iraqi police said. No reason was given for the fire but speculation is sabotage; no group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. Neither the South Oil Company nor the Oil Pipeline Company has issued a statement to confirm or deny rumors of sabotage.

ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Production



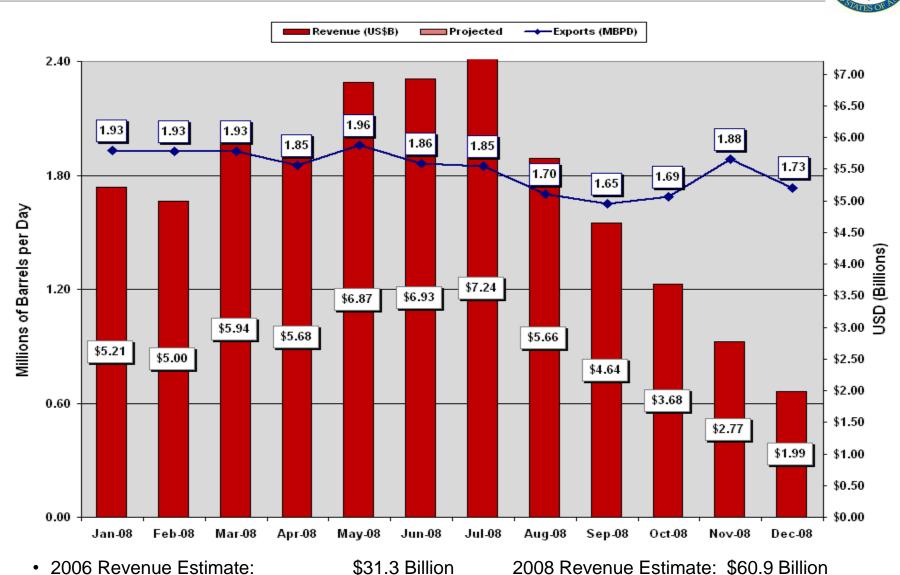


ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Export

2007 Revenue Estimate:

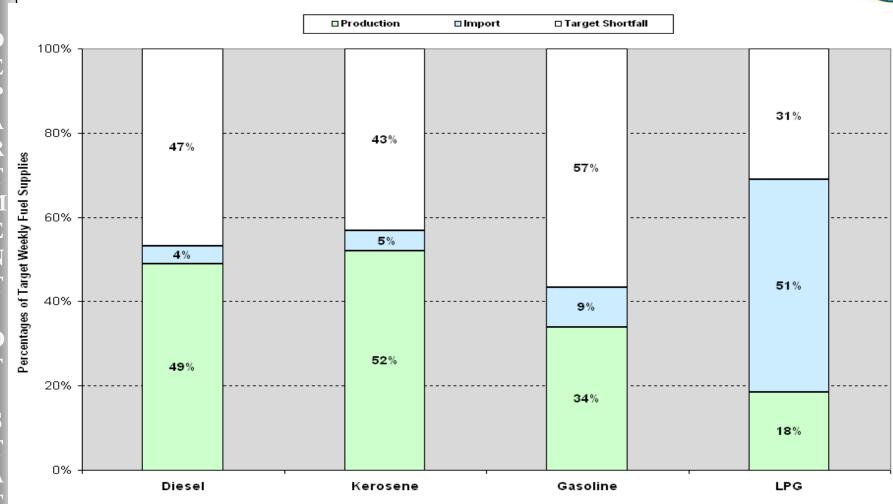






ECONOMIC – Total Critical Refined Product Supplies





Note: This is a daily average for Jan 5 - 12

Diesel: 13.0 ML supply of 24.5 ML target

Gasoline: 11.6 ML supply of 26.8 ML target

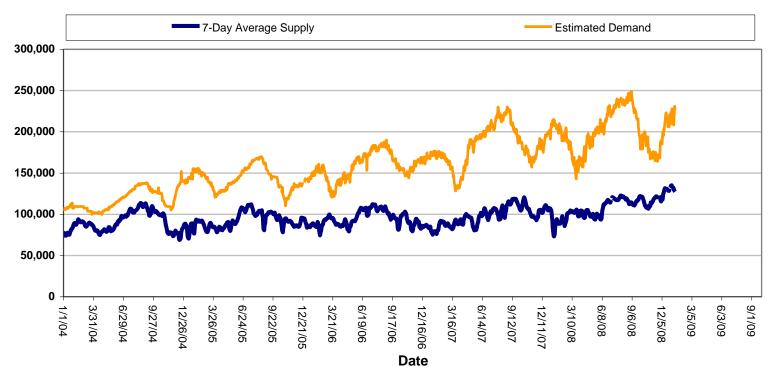
• Kerosene: 8.3 ML supply of 14.6 ML target

• LPG: 3,521 tons supply of 5,100 tons target

ECONOMIC – Electricity



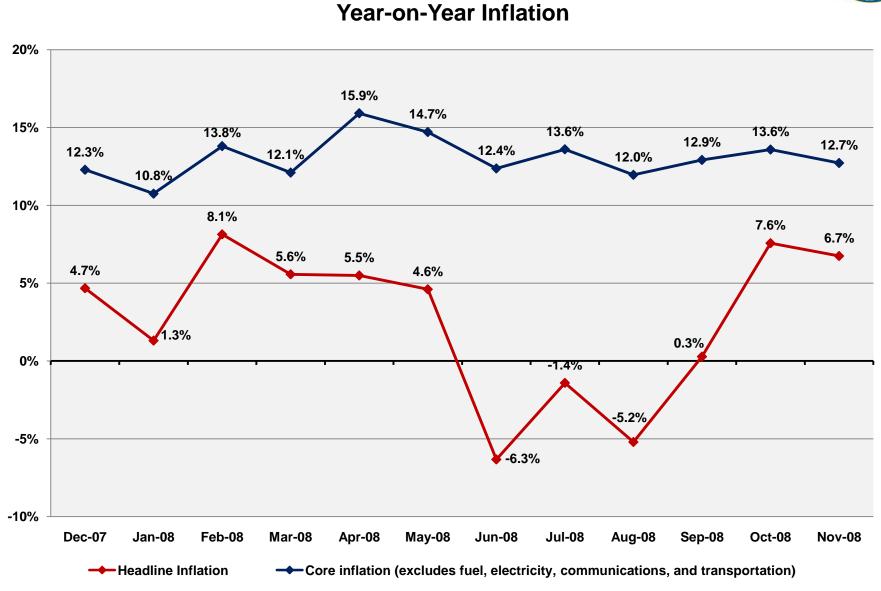
Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004



- Daily electricity demand January 7-13 was 4% above the same period last year. Daily supply from the grid was 73% above the year-earlier period and met 64% of demand, compared with 35% for the year-earlier period.
- Hours of power after meeting demand from essential services: Baghdad 13.0 and Iraq 13.4.
 Year earlier: Baghdad 7.4 and Iraq 9.4.

ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators





ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators

Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year	
Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales					
Price (USD) Yield	\$42.71 14.95%	\$42.10 15.14%	\$41.74 15.26%	\$66.08 9.95%	
Central Bank's USD Currency Auction					
USD Sold NID Exchange Rate	***	***	***	\$54,693,394 \$1,196	
Total Employed by USG Programs					
	***	***	106,354	117,835	

ECONOMIC - Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) 1 and 2

Sector\Status	Co		ommitted		0	Obligated		Disbursed			
(Millions of USD)	Allocated	Un- allocated	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change
Security and Law	\$4,960	\$17	\$4,937	\$7,298	\$2,361	\$4,937	\$5,924	\$987	\$4,871	\$1,157	-\$3,713
Justice and Civil Society	\$2,299	\$20	\$2,263	\$2,676	\$413	\$2,262	\$2,301	\$39	\$2,181	\$1,420	-\$761
Electricity Sector	\$4,178	\$36	\$4,066	\$4,134	\$69	\$4,065	\$1,326	-\$2,739	\$3,940	\$1,041	-\$2,899
Oil Infrastructure	\$1,717	\$7	\$1,608	\$2,124	\$515	\$1,608	\$1,352	-\$256	\$1,581	\$344	-\$1,237
Water and Sanitation	\$2,054	\$21	\$1,983	\$2,035	\$52	\$1,980	\$858	-\$1,122	\$1,849	\$535	-\$1,315
Transportation and Comm\	\$462	\$2	\$459	\$631	\$172	\$459	\$496	\$38	\$421	\$133	-\$288
Roads, Bridges and Const\	\$320	\$8	\$282	\$245	-\$37	\$282	\$45	-\$237	\$258	\$76	-\$182
Health Care	\$810	\$9	\$793	\$936	\$143	\$793	\$547	-\$245	\$744	\$232	-\$512
Private Sector Development	\$838	\$1	\$820	\$865	\$45	\$820	\$864	\$44	\$814	\$795	-\$20
Edu Refugees, Human Rights	\$470	\$0	\$436	\$515	\$79	\$435	\$511	\$75	\$409	\$392	-\$16
Admin Expense (USAID,DoS)	\$220	\$0	\$218	\$219	\$1	\$218	\$219	\$1	\$208	\$210	\$2
Rescission	\$0	-\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total IRRF II	\$18,328	\$71	\$17,864	\$21,678	\$3,814	\$17,859	\$14,444	-\$3,415	\$17,278	\$6,336	-\$10,941
IRRF II Non-Construction	-	-	\$7,972	\$9,395	\$1,422	\$7,970	\$9,272	\$1,302	\$7,773	\$5,145	-\$2,627
IRRF II Construction	-	-	\$9,373	\$7,786	-\$1,587	\$9,369	\$4,652	-\$4,717	\$8,988	\$674	-\$8,314
IRRF II Overhead	-	-	\$520	\$4,498	\$3,978	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$517	\$517	\$0
Total IRRF I	\$2,475	\$0	\$2,291	\$2,291	\$0	\$2,232	\$2,232	\$0	\$2,139	\$2,139	\$0
Grand Total IRRF I & II	\$20,803	\$71	\$20,155	\$23,969	\$3,814	\$20,092	\$16,677	-\$3,415	\$19,417	\$8,475	-\$10,941

Data as of 30 December, 2008

Apportion amounts reflect those of the latest Executive Office of the President Report, published by the Office of Management and Budget. Committed, obligated and disbursed amounts reflect last numbers reported by each agency.

DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement



VP-elect Biden Visits Baghdad:

• Senator Joseph Biden visited Iraq January 12. In Baghdad he met President Jalal Talabani, Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, and Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari. Vice President-elect Biden discussed the future of U.S. forces in Iraq as well as plans to strengthen economic and security conditions in-country. He "reiterated U.S. support for Iraq's fledgling democratic process and the continuing steps to restore its sovereignty." He also stressed the importance of U.S. – Iraq coordination in implementing the new military accord and Strategic Framework Agreement. VP-elect Biden also traveled to Kirkuk where he met local officials.

<u>Iran Still a Threat:</u>

• In a report released January 12, the Pentagon said that "Iranian behavior continues to reflect a fundamental desire to oppose the development of a fully secure and stable Iraq." It added that Iran would seek to use the upcoming provincial elections to expand its influence. Countering "malign [Iranian] influence" was a key priority. The report noted that violence and civilian deaths were down significantly (the latter by 63% from a year ago) and that the "lack of essential services has now replaced security as the most important concern in the minds of most Iraqis."

DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement



President Talabani to Attend Arab Summit:

• President Jalal al-Talabani is scheduled to participate in the upcoming Arab Economic and Social Development Summit, According to *Aswat al-Iraq*. The two-day Summit will be held in Kuwait and is scheduled to begin January 19.

CONTACT INFORMATION



- This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.
- Please forward all questions and/or comments to:

NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov

S T A T

NOTES AND SOURCE CITATIONS (1 of 2)



Slide 4:

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- LA Times, January 12, http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-iraq12-2009jan12,0,7767824.story

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- IHT, January 11, http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2009/01/11/news/ML-Iraq-Covering-The-Elections.php
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- http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/43060

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UPI, January 8, http://www.upi.com/Emerging_Threats/2009/01/08/Iraq_orders_eviction_of_squatters/UPI-57951231448257/

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Department of State, NEA/I Political Section, NEA-I-POL-DL@state.gov

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- Reuters, January 11, http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSLB720199
- Washington Post, January 7, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/07/AR2009010701723.html

Slide 11:

- MNFI Press Release, January 12, http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=24855&Itemid=21
- MNFI Press Release, January 9, http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=24806&Itemid=21

Slide 12:

MNFI Press Release- http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=24841&Itemid=21

Slide 13:

DoD Input to Iraq Weekly Status Report January 14 2009

Slide 14:

Los Angeles Times, January 12, http://www.military.com/news/article/corps-deploys-cows-for-iraqs-economy.html?col=1186032310810

Slide 15:

Voices of Iraq, January 12, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/43166

Slide 16:

Azzman, January 11, http://www.azzaman.com/english/index.asp?fname=news%5C2009-01-11%5Ckurd.htm

Slide 17-19:

■ Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

NOTES AND SOURCE CITATIONS (2 of 2)



Slide 20:

- Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov
- The chart shows average daily power production in megawatt hours (MWh). 120,000 MWh goal equates to 20 hours at 6000 MW average supplied load or 24 hours at 5000 MW average

Slide 21:

Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

Slide 22:

Derived from Multiple Sources. (ITAO IMU Essential Indicators Report, Baghdad, 26 November 2008) (Bloomberg) (Central Bank of Iraq, Foreign Exchange Auction, CBiraq.org) (http://www.cbiraq.org/C.B.I.%20FOREIGN% 20EXCHANGE%20AUCTIONS.pdf)

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ITAO IMU Essential Indicators Report, Baghdad, 30 December 2008

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