

World Bank Iraq Trust Fund
Project #: P096774
March 2008 /1st Quarter
Project Summary Sheet

Title	Emergency Disabilities Project				
Implementing Agency	Ministry of Health (MoH)				
Location	Baghdad, Al Basrah, Dhi Qar, Karbala, Maysan, Al Muthanna, Al Qadisiyah, Wasit				
Sector code (OECD DAC)	<i>12191</i>	Medical services			
	<i>15150</i>	Strengthening civil society			
Compact Priority	<i>4.4.1.1</i>	Design and carry out specific policies including reforms and investments towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals			
	<i>4.2.1.1</i>	Adopt and carry out policies to stimulate civil society engagement in reforms			
Project Cost	US\$19.5 million				
Duration	28 months				
Approval Date	November 2005	Effective Date	November 2005	Closing Date	September 2009
Project Description	The project aims to improve the delivery of rehabilitation and prosthetic services in order to reduce the burden of physical disability. Specifically, the project supports: (i) developing a national policy on disabilities; (ii) increasing the capacity of Iraqi institutions and other stakeholders to meet the needs of disabled persons; (iii) strengthening partnerships between the government and civil society to provide services to disabled persons; and (iv) upgrading the infrastructure and equipment of selected rehabilitation and prosthetic centers throughout Iraq.				
Beneficiaries	The project will directly benefit an estimated 250,000 persons with physical disabilities who would otherwise not have access to the quality rehabilitation services needed for leading a productive life. The project will also benefit the estimated 1.4 million family members of disabled persons.				
Near Term Employment Creation	Although creating immediate employment is not a project objective, the project will generate short-term jobs through civil works undertaken by local construction companies.				

Strategic Context and Donor Coordination

Iraq has a growing population of disabled people, yet social and rehabilitation services for this group have declined. Given the country's high unemployment rates and poor community services, becoming disabled poses a serious risk that the entire family could fall into poverty. Improving services to the disabled is a government priority that requires increased attention of the government and the donor community.

Project Development Objective

- Support the delivery of disabled and prosthetic services
- Increase the capacity and awareness of local stakeholders to manage disabled services

Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement

Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National policy on disabilities • Increased capacity of GoI and stakeholders / partners to provide services to the disabled • 8 disabled centers rehabilitated & prosthetics available
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy development and partnership creation • Rehabilitation works to ensure delivery of services to the disabled • Supply of prosthetics

Procurement	Civil works:	US\$4.8 million
	Goods:	US\$11.3 million
	Consulting services:	US\$1.9 million
	Training:	US\$1.3 million
	Operating costs:	US\$0.2 million

Financial Data (as of 3/31/2008)

Funds Committed	US\$4.6 million	% approved	24
Funds Disbursed	US\$1.9 million	% approved	10
Forecast Closing Date	September 2009	Delay (months)	24

Progress against indicators

Policy framework for the disabled developed and adopted by the Government.	The technical assistance from the Italian Cooperation (IC) to develop the legal framework did not materialize.	% of planned	0
At least 3 NGOs have an official agreement with the Government to deliver services to disabled and their families.	None	% of planned	0
Number of disabled who received prosthetic devices / other specialized equipment from rehabilitated facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No facilities have yet been rehabilitated 2 medical aids contracts have recently been signed. 	% of planned	10

Qualitative Assessment of Project Performance

While designs for all 8 rehabilitation centers are complete, only one site has been tendered. Although bidding documents for 4 other sites have been prepared, the World Bank has withheld its “no objection” due to the pending decision on project restructuring. Based on the implementation experience with the Emergency Health Rehabilitation Project, it seems unlikely that the civil works can be completed within the remaining lifetime of the project.

The procurement of medical aids and equipment has encountered delays due to the prolonged registration process in the MOH and lack of capacity in the MOH to prepare the technical specifications, in spite of technical support provided by an international specialist contracted by the World Bank.

Training and capacity building activities have been progressing relatively well. In September 2006, Ministry officials participated in a study tour to Bosnia to gain experience from a similar Bank-financed project that had a successful outcome. Completed training activities include: (i) training for 16 managers of rehabilitation centers throughout Iraq, (ii) training for 70 physiotherapists; (iii) hospital-based physician training for 20 specialized physicians; and (iv) prostheses and orthoses technician training for 35 technicians.

Major Implementation Obstacles

Project implementation is affected by the ongoing security situation, which impedes movement, creates hardship for contractors and project management staff, and makes some project sites temporarily unreachable. In addition the project lacks the requisite ownership and leadership by senior MOH staff. The appreciation of the Iraqi dinar has exacerbated cost increases and forced a review of the scope of the works.

The MOH and the PMT continue to suffer from instability and a serious lack of institutional capacity that impede the ability to provide sustained project implementation oversight and maintain an effective policy dialogue.

Given the slow pace of implementation, project activities that have not yet been initiated may not be able to be completed by the closing date. Therefore, the World Bank has recommended that MOH cancel non-performing activities, revise the project objectives, and possibly reallocate any released funds to priority areas that could be implemented during the remaining period.