

**World Bank Iraq Trust Fund
School Construction and Rehabilitation Project (TF053545/P087907)
October 2011**

Project Summary Sheet

Title	School Construction and Rehabilitation Project				
Implementing Agency	Ministry of Education (MOE)				
Location	Nationwide (all 18 governorates)				
Sector code (OECD DAC)	<i>11120</i> Educational facilities and training				
Compact Priority	<p><i>4.4.1.1</i> Design and carry out specific policy reforms and investments towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals</p> <p><i>4.4.1.2.1</i> Undertake specific measures to promote continuous education for competitive skills and equal opportunities in the labor market</p> <p><i>4.4.1.3.1</i> Achieve universal access to basic education</p>				
Project Cost	US\$60 million				
Duration	98 months				
Approval Date	October 2004	Effective Date	October 2004	Closing Date	June 2012
Project Description	The Project will finance the rehabilitation of 133 schools, the construction of 48 new schools, and the construction of six-classroom block extensions to 20 existing schools in Baghdad Governorate.				
Beneficiaries	About 44,848 students will benefit from improved quality of learning in rehabilitated schools, while 12,480 students will benefit from new schools, and 4,800 students will benefit from extension of existing school buildings.				
Near Term Employment Creation	The Project maximizes local content by using Iraqi firms for design, construction, and construction supervision. The Project expects to generate over 6,000 job opportunities, over half of which are underway through ongoing reconstruction work.				

Strategic Context and Donor Coordination

The MOE Situation Analysis, building on the UN/World Bank Joint Needs Assessment, identified almost US\$700 million in urgent repair and reconstruction needs over three years. Over 12,000 schools (more than 80%) require repair, 2,300 require minor repair, 9,400 require major repair, and around 1,300 need to be demolished and rebuilt. A gap of more than 5,000 schools causes schools to hold double and triple shifts. The World Bank, the UN, and the US are the main donors supporting education, and continue to coordinate their efforts. The US focused initially on minor rehabilitation; the UN supports both minor and major rehabilitation. The World Bank is the only donor working through Iraq's MOE and the only donor financing major new school construction in a significant manner.

Project Development Objective

The objective of the Project is to improve the conditions of learning of students in primary and secondary schools in Iraq through the construction of new schools, the extension of existing schools, and the rehabilitation of schools in need of urgent repairs.

Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement

Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 133 schools rehabilitated (reduced from 140 originally) • 48 new schools constructed (reduced from 117 originally) • 20 extensions of existing school buildings (6-classroom blocks)
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various design, construction and supervision activities related to outputs

Procurement	Civil Works:	US\$53.04 million
	Goods:	US\$ 0.16 million
	Consulting Services:	US\$ 4.80 million (95 % local consultants)
	Training:	US\$ 0.50 million
	Operating Costs:	US\$ 1.50 million

Financial Data

Funds Committed	US\$55.1 million	% approved	92
Funds Disbursed	US\$42.5 million	% approved	71
Forecast Closing Date	June 2012	Delay (months)	25

Progress against Indicators

133 schools rehabilitated	The school rehabilitation subcomponent has been completed. An evaluation carried out in 2009 in 116 of the 133 schools shows that enrollment increased by 18 percent in those schools (from 38,034 to 44,848). Data from other schools could not be collected.	% of planned	100
48 new schools constructed	36 schools have been completed, and 14 are currently under construction. (Currently 50 schools are planned – 2 more than originally planned)		75
20 6-classroom blocks extensions constructed	Contracts for 14 schools were awarded and construction started on 10 sites. Regarding the remaining schools, contracts were awarded for 4 packages and 3 packages recently received World Bank's no objection for contract award. (A total of 21 six-classroom blocks extensions are planned to be built – one more school than originally planned.		

Qualitative Assessment of Project Performance

Considerable progress has been made under all three main activities of the Project:

Rehabilitation of 133 existing schools. This sub-component includes a range of interventions (such as addition of new classrooms, upgrading of electrical and plumbing systems, painting, roof repairs, new toilets). A total of 133 schools have been rehabilitated, and hence the target has been met. Following rehabilitation, enrollment in the schools for which data is available increased by 18 percent, from 38,034 to 44,848.

Construction of 50 new schools. This includes 32 primary and 18 secondary schools, and all are 12-classroom schools. A total of 36 schools have been completed, of which 2 schools have been completed since the last mission. Six contracts involving 14 schools are currently under implementation. Major progress has been made in the past months with regard to some of the long-standing problem contracts. The Missan contract (2 schools) has now been legally terminated after having the works suspended for more than two years. The remaining works of both schools under this contract are currently being retendered. In terms of the Muthana contract (3 schools), the PMT agreed with the contractor to resume work on the sites and the contractor committed to complete the remaining works for all three schools within the project period. Construction of some of these remaining 14 schools is behind the implementation schedule.

Six-classroom extensions at 21 schools. The Project added this sub-component when it was restructured

in September 2010. Four out of seven contracts have been signed for the extension of 14 existing schools; the bid evaluation reports for the remaining three packages (covering 7 existing schools) have already been cleared by the World Bank. The implementation of this sub-component is behind schedule.

In summary, the Project Development Objective (PDO) remains relevant and achievable, with most of the activities on the critical path to achieving the project objective either completed or well underway, although a few additional months will be needed to complete all the school construction work. Under the leadership of the Minister of Education, the MOE shows a strong commitment to fulfill the actions necessary to fully achieve the PDO. This is evident in the decision of the Minister to chair the Project Steering Committee and to closely monitor project progress, as well as his willingness to take critical decisions that will facilitate the project implementation.

Major Implementation Obstacles

The Project continues to progress at a slow pace due to the difficult operating environment in Iraq. Although the rehabilitation component has been successfully completed, the new school construction component and six-classroom extensions are behind schedule mainly due to the following obstacles: (i) security issues; (ii) weak local contractors' capacity; (iii) lengthy payment process to contractors including prolonged internal procedures and redundant internal controls, (iv) unsatisfactory performance from supervision consultants and lack of qualified consultants; and (v) terrain issues (such as water table issues and variations to foundation design). The MOE remains very committed to the project and has been successful in resolving longstanding issues with some contractors. The MOE also agreed on transferring contract management and supervision to the School Building Section of the MOE in order to improve implementation progress. In addition, the PMT prepared two action plans to effectively resolve issues and accelerate implementation for the 14 remaining schools, as well as to simplify internal disbursement procedures and expedite payments to contractors and consultants.