

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Danida

Basrah, Iraq: Site Inspection of Selected Bilateral Projects

Final Report, Vol. 1

February 2009



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February 2009

Report no. 01
Issue no. 02
Date of issue February 2009

Prepared MHA
Checked PSP
Approved PSP

 PSP 25.02.09

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1-1
1.1	Background	1-1
1.2	Context	1-1
1.2.1	Blood gas analysers	1-1
1.2.2	Jetting and suction trucks	1-2
1.2.3	Nisr Buoy Vessel	1-2
1.2.4	Equipment for the Basrah Court House	1-3
1.2.5	Local Governance Fund	1-3
1.2.6	The Agriculture/Irrigation Programme	1-3
1.3	Note on methodology and results	1-3
1.4	List of visited projects	1-4
1.5	Summary of findings	1-5
2	Errata and addenda	2-1
2.1	Errata	2-1
2.2	Blood gas analyser	2-1
2.3	Local Government Fund projects	2-1
2.3.1	LGF 13 Tal Al-Zataar School Project	2-1
2.3.2	LGF 15 - Rehabilitation of Road in Al Jazera	2-1
2.3.3	LGF 16 - Al Alwan School Project	2-2
2.3.4	LGF 18 - Al Kubasi Kindergarten	2-2
2.4	Addendum	2-2
2.4.1	List of visited sites	2-2
2.4.2	Summary of findings	2-2
3	Questionnaires	3-4
3.0	Comments	3-4
3.1	Blood gas analysers	3-5
3.2	Jetting and suction trucks	3-6
3.3	Buoy tender vessel "Nisr"	3-7
3.4	Equipment for the Court House in Basrah	3-8
3.5	Local Governance Fund Programme	3-9

Note: The questionnaires for the Agriculture/Irrigation Programme are found in Volume 2.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs requires an independent site inspection to be conducted of the most significant bilateral projects in Iraq undertaken with Danish support, primarily in the Basrah Province. The objective of the task is to obtain an independent report of the actual status of selected projects vis-à-vis the original project goals. The site inspection analysis will attempt to assess the progress of each project. It is to be noted that the selected projects are not the total of the Danish involvement in Iraqi reconstruction; activities and projects like those in the human rights sector, and the Iraqi Transport Corridor Study are not included.

The task has been entrusted to COWI A/S under contract no. KK2007/442/2. Due to the security situation in Iraq foreign nationals were not able to carry out the physical inspections. These were therefore carried out by a team of resident Iraqi professionals.

The majority of site inspections took place from 15 October until the first weeks of November 2007. The remaining inspections, which had been delayed due to problems in gaining access to the sites, were carried out until the beginning of December. In July, inspection of three blood gas analysers in Baghdad became possible. The questionnaires were checked, translated and edited by Mr. Maitham K. Hassan of COWI, in Kuwait, and transmitted to COWI in Copenhagen for collation.

The present report summarizes the findings and presents the filled-in questionnaires used in the inspections.

COWI and the team members thank all interviewed persons and all persons who assisted them for their help.

1.2 Context

1.2.1 Blood gas analysers

In the context of the Danish assistance to the reconstruction of Iraq, the Iraqi Ministry of Health expressed a wish for the financing of medical equipment

from Radiometer. This company had earlier delivered approximately 200 blood gas analysers to Iraqi hospitals for use in paediatrics and intensive care wards. It was estimated that only 20 of these machines were in working order. Eleven analysers were purchased through one of Danida's procurement agents, PROMPT and one of these analysers was delivered to the Al-Basrah Teaching Hospital in Basrah in October 2004.

1.2.2 Jetting and suction trucks

During the preparation of the Danish assistance to reconstruction of southern Iraq it was found that environmental management was a key area for improving public health conditions through improved sanitation, drinking water supply etc. Large and numerous pools of stagnant water caused by blocked drains and sewers and overflowing septic tanks were identified as a health hazard and a nuisance. An urgent need for equipment for cleaning sewers and wastewater canals was identified. The Danish company J. Hvidtved Larsen won an international tender, launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for supply of three jetting and suction trucks which were subsequently delivered at Basra in May 2005 and handed over to the Basrah Sewerage Directorate under the General Directorate for Sewage in Baghdad.

The trucks, equipped with the supplier's vacuum and pressure equipment on Mercedes Benz truck chassis, have two functions: they can empty cesspits and they can flush blocked sewers with a powerful jet of water.

1.2.3 Nisr Buoy Vessel

The ports of Um Qasr and Khor al Zubair are the only deep water ports in Iraq. They are both served by an important road and rail network and therefore important gateways for import and export of goods.

The General Company for Ports of Iraq (GCPI) is responsible to the Ministry of Transport for the Management and operation of all ports and waterways in Iraq. The Buoys and Lighting Department of the GCPI is responsible for deployment and maintenance of navigational aids in all Iraqi waters. At the time of the formulation of the project, GCPI had 4 operational dredgers but no buoy tendering vessel in operating condition. Two buoy tender vessels had been sunk during the first Gulf war, and the third, Nisr, was not operational due to neglect and lack of maintenance. The buoys are needed for demarcating the 40 nm (80 kms) long dredged access channels and to mark the safe passage of the numerous wrecks.

The buoy tendering vessel Nisr was built in Germany in 1980. It had not been dry docked since 1993. As project strategy it was decided to:

- dry dock the vessel in Kuwait to ascertain whether rehabilitation was viable,
- if viable, refurbish the ship,

- after identification of training needs, to train master and crew in operation and maintenance of the vessel and in buoy handling techniques.

The result of the docking was that refurbishment was a viable option and after an international tender, the ship was refurbished in Kuwait with a Danish marine consultancy supplying process consultancy to the supervision of the repairs. The works were substantially completed in July 2006 and the ship was put into service immediately after. The same consultant supplied two experts for two months to assist the crew in familiarising themselves with the ship and the equipment and to establish a safety management system in compliance with international standards.

1.2.4 Equipment for the Basrah Court House

As part of the strengthening of the legal sector in Iraq, the United States and Denmark have jointly supported the rehabilitation of the Central Court House in Basrah. The US has taken care of the physical rehabilitation of the building and Denmark has contributed furniture and equipment. Supply and installation of the equipment was tendered locally.

1.2.5 Local Governance Fund

The objective of the Local Governance Fund (LGF) is to finance minor projects identified by the democratically elected local councils in Basrah Governorate. Financing projects through the LGF is expected to strengthen the local councils' capacity to prioritise and carry out activities in their areas. It is assumed that this is best done through acquiring practical administration experience. Typically the projects will be minor maintenance projects such as repairs of secondary roads and power and water supply. The local councils prepare the proposals which they forward to the provincial council in Basrah for screening. The final approval takes place in the LGF committee where the Danish steering unit and the Basrah provincial council are represented. 18 such projects were carried out.

1.2.6 The Agriculture/Irrigation Programme

Since 2003 Denmark has supported the reconstruction process in Iraq through technical assistance to the agricultural sector. In 2005 it was decided to enhance this support through among others financing the rehabilitation of existing, derelict irrigation schemes. The Danish consulting company NIRAS/Scanagri was selected through EU tender to assist project identification, starting up and monitoring of project activities. The projects covered 45 sluices to control the supply of irrigation water from the Euphrates River through irrigation canals to the fields and 6 pedestrians' bridges.

1.3 Note on methodology and results

The interviewers (civil and electrical engineers, architects and surveyors) are not specialists in the subjects the projects deal with. Except the in the case of

the buoy vessel Nisr, the technology level of the projects is such that their training and experience is adequate to evaluate independently the state of the works. With regards to Nisr, they have presented the situation as described by the ship's staff.

They have carried out an inspection of the "hardware" and they have reproduced the information given to them by the interviewed persons without seeking corroboration of this information from other sources.

1.4 List of visited projects

The list of projects as presented in the terms of reference is the following:

Project No.	Description	
1	Blood gas analysers (11 units purchased in total, only one for Basrah Town)	
2	Jetting & Suction Trucks (3 units)	
3	The Buoy Tender Vessel 'NISR'	
4	Equipment/Furniture for the Court House in Basrah	
5	The Local Governance Fund, with the following sub-projects	
5.01	LGF001	Paving of streets
5.02.	LGF002	Internet cafe
5.02.a.	LGF002a	Internet cafe additional works
5.03	LGF003	Paving streets
5.04	LGF004	3 x wall/fence around health clinics (in one project)
5.05	LGF005	Cover streets w gravel/sub-base
5.06	LGF006	Cover streets w gravel/sub-base
5.07	LGF007	Cover streets w gravel/sub-base
5.08	LGF008	Kitchen for women
5.09	LGF009	Road
5.10	LGF010	School
5.11	LGF011	School
5.12	LGF012	Clinic
5.13	LGF013	School

Project No.	Description	
5.14	LGF014	Clinic
5.15	LGF015	Aljazeera Road
5.16	LGF016	School
5.17	LGF017	Water
5.18	LGF018	Kindergarten
6	The Agriculture/Irrigation Programme, Ph 2, with the following sub-projects	
6.1		Talha Medina Sluices - 20 no's
6.2		Al Medina Sluices - 5 no's
6.3		Ez El Deen Saleem Sluices - 5 no's
6.4		Al Querna Sluices - 6 no's
6.5		Al Dayr Sluices - 9 no's
6.6		Al Nashwa Foot Bridges - 6 no's
6.7		Talha Medina Drainage Canal

All sites were visited except one of the 6 foot bridges, in Alboo-Bosairi, which could not be reached due to security problems, and the Talha Medina Canal for the obvious reason that it has not yet been built.

For the three blood gas analyser inspected in July 2008, see section 2.4.

1.5 Summary of findings

Of the 29 listed items:

- 19 are functional and in use,
- 1 (the blood gas analyser) has been operating but is not now, due to lack of spares and consumables,
- 1 (a clinic) is complete but not being used for lack of staff,
- 7 are still under construction (a school, a water supply, a kindergarten, sluices),
- 1 is still being tendered (a drainage canal).

This high rate of success seems to be due to a choice of projects well suited to the institutional environment and responding to locally perceived needs.

With regards to the reasons for the works being unfinished, the team of inspectors report:

"In general we have noticed, through our interviews with the concerned persons, that the main reason for the unfinished works is payment delay from the relevant authorities to the Contractors as these payments are usually made from the Donor from Amman (Jordan) to the Iraqis authority then to the contractor which takes a lot of time and resulting in work delay".

In Section 2 we present the completed inspection questionnaires where all details as well as selected photos can be found.

The table on the following pages summarizes the findings.

Summary of findings

Project No.	Date of inspection	Description	Project status	
1	25 Oct	Blood gas analysers (11 units purchased in total, only one for Basrah Town)	Analyser installed and was functional for a period. Now awaiting spares and consumables	
2	28 Nov	Jetting & Suction Trucks (3 units)	Operating satisfactorily	
3	09 Nov	The Buoy Tender Vessel 'NISR'	Completed and in operation	
4	03 Dec	Equipment/Furniture for the Court House in Basrah	Completed and in use	
5		The Local Governance Fund:		
5.01	27 Oct	LGF001	Paving of streets	Completed and in use
5.02.	20 Nov	LGF002	Internet cafe	Completed and in use
5.02.a.	20 Nov	LGF002a	Internet cafe additional works	Completed and in use
5.03	30 Oct	LGF003	Paving streets	Completed and in use
5.04	03 Nov	LGF004	3 x wall/fence around health clinics (in one proj)	Completed and functional, but one of the clinics is not being used
5.05	29 Oct	LGF005	Cover streets w gravel/sub-base	Completed and in use
5.06	30 Oct	LGF006	Cover streets w gravel/sub-base	Completed and in use
5.07	12 Nov	LGF007	Cover streets w gravel/sub-base	Completed and in use

Project No.	Date of inspection	Description		Project status
5.08	27 Oct	LGF008	Kitchen for women	Completed, partially functional, some items out of order
5.09	01 Nov	LGF009	Road	Completed and in use
5.10	28 & 31 Oct	LGF010	School	Completed and in use
5.11	28 Oct	LGF011	School	Completed and in use
5.12	30 Oct	LGF012	Clinic	Completed and expected to start functioning soon
5.13	28 & 31 Oct	LGF013	School	Completed and in use
5.14	30 Oct	LGF014	Clinic	Completed, not yet in use due to lack of staff
5.15	29 Oct	LGF015	Aljazeera Road	Completed and in use
5.16	28 Oct	LGF016	School	Under construction
5.17	31 Oct	LGF017	Water	Under construction
5.18	30 Oct	LGF018	Kindergarten	Under construction
6		The Agriculture/Irrigation Programme, Ph 2:		
6.1	4-11 Nov		Talha Medina Sluices - 20 no's	All completed and in use; some lack skilled operators
6.2	04 Nov		Al Medina Sluices - 5 no's	Under construction

Project No.	Date of inspection	Description	Project status
6.3	05 Nov	Ez El Deen Saleem Sluices - 5 no's	Under construction
6.4	05 Nov	Al Querna Sluices - 6 no's	Under construction
6.5	04 Nov	Al Dayr Sluices - 9 no's	Under construction
6.6	06 Nov	Al Nashwa Foot Bridges - 6 no's	Completed satisfactorily, in use with only minor complaints
6.7	01 Dec	Talha Medina Drainage Canal	Not yet built, under tender.

2 Errata and addenda

2.1 Errata

After the completion of the report, a number of inconsistencies or contradictions were pointed out to the editor. They are as follows:

2.2 Blood gas analyser

The inspection sheet states that the inspectors were informed that the analyser had been in use only for one week.

The documentation received from Danida, a table recapitulating the service visits to the twelve analysers in the whole of the country, indicates that three service visits to the Basrah one have been carried out after 4, 8 and 12 months after installation. A note to the last visit explains that the equipment had been out of use due to a molten fuse for two months. It is inferred that the fuse was repaired during the service visit.

2.3 Local Government Fund projects

2.3.1 LGF 13 Tal Al-Zataar School Project

The object of the project has been described by the inspection as building a toilet as no other information was available at the time of the inspection visit.

According to later verbal information from Mr. Jesper Frovin, the project objective was to build a complete school, but activities were discontinued due to the contractor's unsatisfactory performance. Only the toilet seems to have been completed at that time.

2.3.2 LGF 15 - Rehabilitation of Road in Al Jazera

The original intention was to rehabilitate the subbase and pave the road with a pavement width of 5 meters. It was later decided that the pavement would be financed by an Iraqi budget and that the LGF funds would finance only subbase rehabilitation but in 7 meters width.

The conclusion of the inspection report that the project is unfinished is incorrect as far as the LGF component is concerned.

2.3.3 LGF 16 - Al Alwan School Project

The documentation upon which the site inspection questionnaire was based was ambiguous. It was assumed that only three classrooms were planned.

A second visit to the site confirms that 4 classrooms were actually built.

2.3.4 LGF 18 - Al Kubasi Kindergarten

The inspection report states that roof tiling is missing.

During project execution the design of the roof was modified and a concrete slab was introduced in stead of the tiling. The modification was carried out and the project completed.

The inspectors confirm that the building has a functional roof.

2.4 Addendum

In July 2008, inspection of some of the blood analysers in Baghdad became possible.

2.4.1 List of visited sites

The list of visited sites in Baghdad is as follows:

- One unit in Al-Yarmouk Hospital, Baghdad,
- One unit in in Medical City, Centre for Heart Diseases, Baghdad,
- One unit in Medical City, Ibn Al-Bitar Hospital, Baghdad,

2.4.2 Summary of findings

Date of inspection	Description	Status/comment
12 July 2008	One unit in Al-Yarmouk Hospital, Baghdad	Lack of solutions for long period, then defect of the electrodes and now awaiting repair.

Date of inspection	Description	Status/comment
13 July 2008	One unit in Medical City, Centre for Heart Diseases, Baghdad	Installed and was operational for a period. Now out of operation for about 2 years. Damage caused by power fluctuations. The analyser has been moved to the Hospital warehouse, awaiting repair.
15 July 2008	One unit in Medical City, Ibn Al-Bitar Hospital, Baghdad	Analyser Installed and Operating satisfactorily.

The team has also reported:

"We have been informed that a contract has recently been signed between Radiometer Company in Denmark and Kimadia in Iraq to supply solutions for Blood Gas Analysers type ABL 555 to Iraq. Contract's number is 34/2007/722 and it has been delayed for more than one year before signing it recently".

3 Questionnaires

3.0 Comments

The project completion date in the questionnaire's first part, Basic info, has been found in the project documentation received from Danida.

When the project documentation received from Danida has not contained any project goals or objectives, the inspectors have added them.

3.1 Blood gas analysers

3.2 Jetting and suction trucks

3.3 Buoy tender vessel "Nisr"

3.4 Equipment for the Court House in Basrah

3.5 Local Governance Fund Programme