

Report Identifies Lessons Learned for Stability, Reconstruction Operations

The Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR) recently released its final report identifying lessons learned in the rebuilding of Iraq. *Learning from Iraq: A Final Report From the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction* draws on interviews with current and former Iraqi leaders, U.S. policymakers and practitioners, Members of Congress, and others involved in the reconstruction of Iraq.

The report explores the challenges faced by those involved in the various projects and programs during the nine-year reconstruction effort. Learning from Iraq also serves as a follow-up to SIGIR's previous review, *Hard Lessons: The Iraq Reconstruction Experience*, and includes lessons learned from SIGIR's 220 audits, and 170 inspections. SIGIR's audits of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) and the Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) found expected weaknesses, but also revealed progress made by the programs. For example, SIGIR found that PRT success hinged on the performance of the PRT leader, while CERP success depended on limited project scopes and continuity of oversight.

The report reviews civil-military and law enforcement efforts in Iraq, and describes the many ad hoc entities that managed the rebuilding of Iraq, concluding with seven final lessons learned. These lessons involve civil-military planning, security, host-country engagement, management systems, oversight, and the preservation and future use of programs developed in Iraq. **IAJ**

USAID Partnership Focuses on Global Food Security

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Syngenta International AG, one of the world's leading companies focused on increasing crop productivity and improving health and quality of life. The MOU broadens Syngenta and USAID's partnership, and supports agriculture and food security activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

USAID and Syngenta's collaborative efforts will include research and development, capacity building, and working with other agriculture and food security partners. USAID and Syngenta will work to advance agricultural development and food security goals that have been set by the governments of developing countries. These efforts will be supported by USAID and Feed the Future, a U.S. Government global hunger and food security initiative. USAID will also focus on increasing the use of technology and will expand access to tools like crop insurance and seed treatment.

USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah recently spoke about the importance of drought-tolerant seeds and crop insurance in food security, saying that USAID's partnership with Syngenta would "reduce hunger and undernutrition across three different continents and help bring the end of extreme poverty within reach." Mike Mack, Chief Executive Officer of Syngenta also stressed the important role public-private partnerships play in increasing farm productivity worldwide, saying that "partnerships such as this, drawing on the strengths of each party, will be catalysts for transforming agriculture [...] especially in developing markets." **IAJ**