

Community Development, Democracy, and Governance



A community action group in Iraq.



Community priority mapping in Montenegro.



Explaining radio use in Sudan.



Elementary students in Indonesia.

International Relief & Development (IRD) believes that linking governance and civil society initiatives with other development programs produces greater results than the programs can achieve separately. Working with economic development, health, agriculture and infrastructure programs, our democracy, governance, and community development programs promote strong community participation. Across all sectors, IRD seeks to empower informed citizens who can participate in the democratic process in areas ranging from education and road building to business development. IRD's current programs include vocational training, life-to-work education, and commu-

nity social work. What binds these programs together are IRD's efforts to promote the empowerment of individuals and communities, as well as the long-term sustainability of its interventions. IRD began our 10 years of relief and development experience with a program to support internally displaced populations in Georgia. Since then, IRD has become a specialist in working in conflict and post-conflict environments, taking on the challenge of working in some of the most complex and difficult places around the world. Our programs are aimed at improving the quality of life for vulnerable groups, including displaced persons, refugees, and others.

Afghanistan

Construction Trades Training Center (CTTC)

- **Trained more than 2,500 construction workers and managers in core technical trades.**
- **More than 90 percent of graduates went on to productive employment.**

Donor USAID
Dates April 2006 – May 2008
Amount \$2.8 million

IRD administered the Construction Trades Training Center (CTTC) program in Jalalabad, on land provided by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Nangahar provincial governor. IRD exceeded USAID expectations for this program, training an average of 125 individuals per month in accordance with U.S. construction industry standards. The 28-day training was offered to unskilled construction workers and foreman, with more specialized training that emphasized quality assurance procedures for engineers. Furthermore, IRD initiated a range of income generating activities for the Center – including contract trainings, building inspection and materials testing – to promote its long term economic viability.

Indonesia

SERASI

- **Helps local organizations, institutions, and other partners eliminate violent conflict.**
- **Uses broad range of existing partnerships with local organizations across Indonesia.**
- **Handles programmatic, administrative, and logistical support for strategic grants and technical assistance program.**

Donor USAID
Dates March 2008 – March 2013
Amount \$27.4 million

IRD supports USAID's SERASI program to mitigate social conflict and encourage peacebuilding initiatives across Indonesia. IRD will use participatory decentralized development planning to determine the most strategic use of grants for local, provincial, and national projects that promote respect for

human rights and improved inter-group relations; institutionalize a legitimate peace process in Aceh and three other areas; increase capacity to manage conflict; and support a democratic and transparent security sector.

Iraq

Humanitarian Assistance for Iraq (HAI)

- **Improves access to potable water and sanitation services.**
- **Increases access to primary health care services.**
- **Provides emergency relief commodities.**

Donor USAID
Date December 2004 – September 2010
Amount \$42.9 million

HAI provides humanitarian assistance and relief services to internally displaced persons and returnees affected by the war in 10 governorates around the country. To date, HAI has implemented 370 projects and activities benefiting more than 2 million people, including the construction of wells, rehabilitation of health care centers, assistance in making necessary arrangements for voluntary returnees, and training of regional administration and other partner NGOs on issues relating to international protection standards, reintegration, and human rights.

Iraq Returnee Emergency Shelter Rehabilitation

- **Provided housing for Iraqis returning home.**

Donor UNHCR
Date September 2009 – December 2009
Amount \$3 million

IRD repaired or rehabilitated hundreds of homes of vulnerable IDPs and refugees in Baghdad and Dyaila, areas with the highest numbers of returnees. The project paid particular attention to women and female-headed households.



Community Stabilization Program (CSP)

- **Increases sustainable employment through training, job placement assistance, and business development.**
- **Assists Iraqi communities with conflict mitigation.**
- **Reaches out to Iraqi youth considered at risk for recruitment into insurgency.**

Donor USAID
Date May 2006 – October 2009
Amount \$644 million

CSP works directly with community groups, local government officials, and provincial reconstruction teams to foster more productive and peaceful communities. IRD has placed more than 23,000 Iraqis in long-term jobs, graduated over 16,500 trainees from CSP-sponsored vocational training courses, and placed nearly 5,200 in apprenticeship programs to further their skills. To date, CSP has engaged nearly 69,000 Iraqi youth in over 100 different CSP-sponsored sports and arts programs.

Iraq Community Assistance Program (ICAP)

- **Encourages community residents to join community action groups, giving them a voice to communicate with local government.**
- **Provides grants and training for micro, small, and medium businesses.**
- **Assists accidental civilian victims.**

Donor USAID
Date July 2003 – November 2010
Amount \$107 million

ICAP fosters democratic principles at the grassroots level, encompassing civil society, economic development, and community infrastructure strategies in order to create a more capable and sustainable Iraqi civil society. Currently, IRD has 232 active Community Action Groups working throughout Baghdad. To date, IRD has completed more than 2,600 projects benefiting more than 7 million people. ICAP has also provided assistance to more than 3,000 accidental civilian victims of Coalition Forces with prosthetics, small business grants, and school and clinic repairs.

Montenegro

Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA)

- **Worked with local communities to determine reconstruction priorities.**
- **Provided technical assistance, training, monitoring, and oversight to ensure the sustainability of projects.**
- **Encouraged development of local NGOs.**

Donor USAID
Dates April 2002 – April 2007
Amount \$23 million

Infrastructure projects under the CRDA program were identified as priorities by the local communities and completed with support from both the communities and local governments. Projects included building and renovation of low-voltage electrical networks, irrigation systems, farm-to-market roads, livestock and green markets, water and wastewater facilities, and tourism facilities. Over the course of the project, IRD implemented more than 550 projects benefiting more than 650,000 people and generating \$10 million in income.

Serbia

Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA)

- **Worked with local communities to determine reconstruction priorities.**
- **Provided technical assistance, training, monitoring, and oversight to ensure the sustainability of projects.**
- **Encouraged development of local NGOs.**

Donor USAID
Date July 2001 – July 2007
Amount \$40 million

The infrastructure projects completed under the CRDA program in Serbia were similar to those completed in Montenegro. IRD also repaired and improved solid waste systems, hospitals, health centers, ambulatory units, schools and kindergartens, community centers, and playgrounds. More than 150 such projects were completed.



South Sudan

Radio Distribution and Civic Education project

- **Increases the availability of, and access to, independent information for the citizens of Southern Sudan.**
- **Provides a forum for understanding the peace process and the Constitution, and for requiring government accountability.**

Donor NDI/USAID
Date April 2008 – May 2009
Amount \$231,000

IRD, in partnership with the National Democratic Institute, monitors and tracks the 16,000 radios it distributed across Upper Nile State. Parallel to the distribution of radios, IRD established 20 listening groups that convene twice-monthly in group gatherings to listen to the “Let’s Talk” radio program. IRD will also evaluate the general outcomes of Let’s Talk and assess the impact on civic education.

[For more information, visit www.ird.org](http://www.ird.org)

United States

Gulf Coast Community Resource Center

- **Connects Hurricane Katrina survivors with recovery resources.**
- **Facilitated the reconstruction of 30 homes and repairs of over 300 homes.**
- **Provides high school equivalency training and vocational education to at-risk youth.**

Donor multiple local, state, federal, and private donors
Date November 2005 – present
Amount various

IRD US opened a Gulf Coast Community Resource Center (GCCRC) in Gulfport, MS to help Hurricane Katrina survivors create and implement long-term recovery plans for themselves and their families. Through various programs, ranging from \$15,000 to \$4.9 million, the GCCRC helps ensure that affected communities have a continuous voice in the rebuilding process through community education and outreach. IRD US also provides high school equivalency education, service learning, and “on-the-job” training to at-risk youth who have dropped out of high school, many of whom have been referred by the juvenile justice system.