

Summer Jobs Program

- Origin of Program: Amb Bremer Jobs Initiative, June 7, 2003 (formal announcement 6/15/03)
- Ministry of Irrigation (MoIR) had deferred maintenance on thousands of kilometres of irrigation ditches and canals + war delayed effort
- Problems consist of clogged canals due to aquatic weed growth, and silted drainage canals.
- Jobs program well-suited to hiring local unskilled labour

Program Benefits

- Quick employment impact-immediate results-improved irrigation efficiency
- A valuable internal management tool
- Enhance visibility and respect of MoIR
- Promote cooperation between MoAG and MoIR
- Provide rewarding mission to MoIR employees—Get employees working
- Weed out non-performing employees/companies

Progress

- 3000 employed right now. Planned to be 50,000 by the end of July.
- Weekly payroll ~ \$150K for 10,000 workers, incl 6% mgmt costs (gas, lunch, travel, etc. – no Ministry labor costs)
- Oversight provided by MoIR State companies
- Payments being coordinated with Min Finance and Banks in Governates

Progress (Cont'd)

- Anticipate that 5050 km will be cleaned by end of November
- As of 1 July, 350 km have been cleaned
- The program is expected to grow to 50000 employees by end July-Min Agriculture is beginning to cooperate and will help organizing sites.
- Other possibilities for employment include trash pickup in villages; roadside rubble clearing, schoolhouses and playgrounds maintenance

Observations

- Program very well received by populace
- Potential problems that may emerge include accidents (drownings) & waterborne diseases
- Payments are a problem, but not insurmountable
- Need to publicize program more
- Possible Amb Bremer visit to site (TBD)

Progress to Date

