



Iraq Community Action Program II (CAP II)



CAP II Final Survey Report

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Acronyms

ACDI/VOCA	Agriculture Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
AOR	Area of Responsibility
AP	CAP II Alliance Partner
CAG	Community Action Group
CAP II	Community Action Program, Phase II
CHF	Community Habitat Finance International
CI	Counterpart International
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ICSP	Iraq Civil Society Program
IRD	International Relief and Development, Inc.
LGO	Local Government Official
LGP	Local Governance Program
MC	Mercy Corps
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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Executive Summary

The final survey analyzes the status of targeted communities at the end of CAP II with respect to change in economic development and participation in local governance. It also presents a telling before and after picture by comparing final survey results with those of the baseline survey, conducted in December 2006. The survey was conducted in 14 governorates in the AORs where Alliance Partners implemented CAP II activities. Much has changed in these communities since the beginning of CAP II, and the final survey attempts to capture which of these changes can be attributed to the work of the Alliance Partners, although often times changes in a community can be attributed to multiple factors.

The final survey used a sample size of 312 people, compared with 287 from the baseline, although both surveys were completed in the AORs of each CAP II AP in a consistent manner to ensure comparability between surveys. Both qualitative and quantitative techniques were adopted to collect the data. Standardized questionnaires, structured in-depth interviews and focus group discussions were applied as tools for data collection.

The results of the final survey show that, although a substantial amount of people nationwide are familiar with CAG activities, there is great variation among APs. This means that some community members were either not affected by CAG activities or do not attribute development projects in their respective communities to CAP II and/or CAGs. The difference also could indicate that some APs are more effective in marketing CAG efforts; however, the difference is more likely a product of slightly different methodologies employed by APs and differing levels of permissiveness in certain areas of the country.

Local Government

CAP II has improved community involvement with local government. About 58% of CAG members in the final survey rated their involvement with local government as 'good' or 'excellent,' compared to 45% in the baseline. The improvement can be attributed to a programmatic emphasis on linking CAGs to local government to advocate for the needs of the community.

According to local government officials, CAGs are generally well-qualified to assess community needs and representative of their communities. The inclusion of one or two local government officials (LGOs) as CAG members empowers CAGs while providing support in getting approvals, permissions and required licenses. The presence of LGO as CAG members also enhances monetary government contributions.

Economic Conditions

Across the Alliance, 54.3% of respondents reported that the economic conditions are fair in their communities. More importantly, upon comparing the final survey data with baseline data, a significant decrease was observed in the percentage of those reporting bad economic conditions, with the largest difference (60% down to 7%) witnessed in IRD's AOR. Many factors have affected the economic development of Iraqi communities, but it is obvious that CAP II community interventions positively affected economic conditions in the communities interviewed.

Most respondents reported a better household economic situation compared to the previous year, partly attributable to the jobs and other economic opportunities created by CAP II projects.

Conflict Mitigation

The frequency of conflict has diminished considerably since the beginning of CAP II, with far more respondents in each AOR reporting a higher absence of violence compared with the baseline. The most common sources of conflict are personal and family problems, closely followed by electricity, water, ethnicity, lack of social services and access to fuel. Focus group results, also a part of the final survey data collection process, were consistent with the survey results and community mobilizers indicated similar causes of conflict during the focus groups. Since most of the main sources of conflict were addressed by CAP II projects, these results indicate that the program helped lower the frequency of conflict. Of particular positive influence were AP CAG formation processes that were representative and inclusive of various ethnic groups and religions.

Results also indicated that CAG members do not play a significant role in conflict resolution, despite CAP II training in conflict mitigation. This is traditionally the role of respected community members, local government officials and tribal leaders, who remain important conflict mediators.

Civic Engagement

Most APs saw an increase in civic engagement in the communities they worked in over the life of the project, as CAP II encouraged community participation in advocacy, community action and local government. The results indicate that a majority of respondents were familiar with their respective governor in all but IRD's AOR, also revealing that more people participated in local governance or civic activities in all but MC's AOR when compared to the baseline. In general, the participation in local government has been improved not only by participation in civic activities but also through better involvement of CAGs in local governance. However, the participation in elections could not be reported compared to the baseline, because there has not been a general election between December 2006 and October 2008.

Employment

The survey results show that employment levels have improved over the course of the project. Significant increases ranged from 15% in IRD's AOR to 51% in MC's AOR. This can partly be attributed to the jobs created from the implementation of CAP II activities and projects. A significant number of long-term jobs have been created by CAG-implemented projects that have a long-term impact on the beneficiary communities.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are offered based on the information in this final survey report:

- Explore legal status for CAGs and integrate their activities with those of local councils;
- Include 1-2 local government member(s) on CAGs, careful not to compromise the integrity of the elected body;
- Provide capacity building training modules, including conflict mitigation, to local government officials;
- Encourage a participatory planning process between local government and CAGs; and
- Conduct larger town hall style meetings when entering a community to positively market CAGs and encourage citizen participation.

A full list of conclusions and recommendations can be found in Section V.

I. Introduction

CAP II is a USAID funded program that contributes to USAID/Iraq's objective of building a foundation for democratic governance. The program's goal is to *"strengthen responsible and effective local governance in Iraq by institutionalizing community-level mechanisms and capacity for citizen participation in local decision-making and development."* The final survey aims at analyzing the current situation in CAP II-targeted communities with respect to changes in economic development and participation in local governance. The final survey was conducted in 14 governorates in the AORs where Alliance Partners implemented CAP II activities.

1.1 Objectives of the Final Survey

The main objective of the final survey is to investigate to what extent CAP II achieved its planned objectives, which are:

- Enhanced stability and social capital through stakeholder cooperation in implementing tangible projects that build local capacity to improve the delivery of local services.
- Strengthened community-level participation in support of a more effective, transparent, and democratic sub-national government.
- Increased opportunities for local economic development at the community level.
- Build CAP II technical excellence through training, education, and cross-learning.

1.2 Organization of the Report

The report is organized in five sections: following this introduction, section two provides the methodology adopted in the survey and tools utilized while section three includes the survey results. Section four explores the perspectives on CAP II and its context and recommendations are provided in section five.

II. Methodology

To undertake the final survey, both qualitative and quantitative techniques were used. Standardized questionnaires, structured in-depth interviews and focus group discussions were applied as tools for data collection.

2.1 Quantitative Survey

The survey was administrated to a sample of 312 beneficiaries where CAP II has been implemented. The survey was based on a random, stratified sample of communities in low- and medium-risk areas. There were two types of individuals in this stratum:

- 1) Those who currently are or have been CAG members; and
- 2) Those who live in communities that have, or have had, a functional CAG but have never been members.

2.1.1 Sampling

For the purpose of providing comparative analysis between the baseline, conducted in December 2006 and the final survey, the sample was selected from the same communities where the baseline was conducted (Table 1).

Table 1 – Community Respondents by Governorate and District

Alliance Partner	Governorates	Districts	Number Per district	Total Governorate
IRD	Baghdad	Nisan	8	70
		Al-Aadhamiya	14	
		Al-Kadhmiya	7	
		Al-Karith	7	
		Al-Karrada	14	
		Al-Mansur	7	
		Al-Rasafa	13	
Total for IRD				70
CHF	Babil	Hilla Center	21	21
	Kerbala	Al-Hindya	3	9
		The Center	6	
	Muthana	Al-Samawa	11	11
	Najaf	Al-Manathira	12	27
		Najaf	15	
	Thi-Qar	Al-Naseriya	11	11
	Al-Anbar ¹	Al-Falujja	12	23
		Al-Ramadi	11	
Total for CHF				102
ACDI/VOCA	Dohuk	Sourat	7	7
	Erbil	Koushtiba	13	38
		Khabat	12	
		Koisinjaq	13	
	Tameem	Daquq	13	25
		Kirkuk	12	
Total for ACDI/VOCA				70
MC	Basrah	Basrah	31	31
	Al-Qadisyah	Diwaniyah	15	15
	Misan	Emara	18	18
	Wassit	Kut	6	6
Total for MC				70
Total Sample at CAP II Level				312

The sample size was consistent relative to the baseline survey. In the baseline, the identified sample size was 70 community members for each AP (total of 350). However, CI conducted its survey in Anbar with only 7 community members which decreased the total actual sample to 287. For the final survey, the total sample size was 312 community members. The sample is not equally divided among APs because CHF took over Anbar governorates operations in Year 2 of CAP II, bringing the CHF sample size to 102 community members. A variety of community members were interviewed nationwide, including those who participated in CAG activities and those who remained outside of the CAG process.

Table 2 shows that 57% of the sample for ACDI/VOCA was in urban areas. This percentage increases to 77.5% for CHF and 90% for MC while the complete sample of IRD is in urban

¹ This was AOR of CI in the baseline survey

areas (100%), since IRD works only in the city of Baghdad. Youth² represents about half of the sample for CHF, 61.4% for ACDI/VOCA and 74% for MC while it is only 25% of the sample in IRD. The percentage of females in the sample ranged from 14.7% in CHF to 38.6% for.

In MC areas, about 75% of the sample have a university degree or higher. The percentage reaches 57% in IRD areas and is almost equal in both ACDI/VOCA and CHF areas (about 40%).

Table 2 –Characteristics of AP AORs

Characteristics	APs				Total
	ACDI/VOCA	MC	CHF	IRD	
Urban	57.1%	90%	77.5%	100%	252
Semi-urban	37.1%	10%	8.8%	0	42
Rural	5.7%	0	13.7%	0	18
Youth	61.4%	74.3%	48%	24.3%	161
Adult	38.6%	25.7%	52%	75.7%	151
Male	72.9%	61.4%	85.3%	70%	230
Female	27.1	38.6%	14.7%	30%	82
Illiterate/no formal education	8.5%	1.4%	6.9%	2.9%	16
Primary school	11.4%	4.3%	20.6%	7.1%	37
Middle school	5.7%	2.9%	20.6%	11.4%	35
High/vocational school	34.3%	15.7%	12.8%	21.4%	70
University or higher	40%	75.8%	39.3%	57.1%	154
Total #	70	70	102	70	312

2.1.2 Questionnaire Design and Training of Interviewers

Consisting of six sections, the survey questionnaire is the same as was used in the baseline survey after some updating and revision (See Annex 1). The first section includes identification data of the districts surveyed and section two includes demographic data of the respondents. Section three collects data about CAG participation while section four includes questions describing the community status. Section five is focused on participation in local governance and finally section six is about employment.

2.1.3 Administration of Data Collection and Processing

CHF Prime conducted all the data collection work. Data collection was conducted simultaneously in the AORs of the four APs from October 5 to 9, 2008. The data was collected in face-to-face interviews. Each interview took about 30 minutes, and each interviewer conducted 6 interviews per day. The distribution of interviewers was relative to sample size in each AOR as follows:

AP	CHF	IRD	ACDI/VOCA	MC
No. of interviewers	3	3	3	2

² Youth here is defined as those who are less than 40 years according to the survey definition.

The interviewers received 3 days of intensive training on data collection techniques, survey tools, and procedures to be followed during data collection. The training included role-play and application of data collection methods. A guideline for data collection was prepared and distributed to data collectors for use in the field.

The data processing included office editing, data entry, and cleaning and filtering of files. SPSS was utilized for data entry and analysis.

2.2 Qualitative Research

The qualitative component was adopted to describe and analyze the change in attitudes and behavior of CAG members as well as government officials. The qualitative method served as a verification tool to explain reasons behind the quantitative indicators.

2.2.1 Focus Group Discussions

Four focus group discussions were conducted (one per AP) with CAP II mobilizers. Each focus group meeting took from one-two hours and included 6-8 participants. Two persons from the Prime M&E team conducted the focus group meetings; one moderator to facilitate the discussion and one reporter to record all responses. The instructions for conducting the focus group can be found in Annex 2, while the questions of focus groups are in Annex 3.

2.2.2 In-Depth Interviews

In-depth interviews also were conducted with local government officials to explore issues such as the strengths and weaknesses of CAGs, the sustainability of CAGs after CAP II, and CAG participation in local governance and conflict resolution. The questions for the in-depth interviews with government officials are presented in Annex 4. The interviews were conducted by the CHF Prime M&E team.

The following table presents the actual number of in-depth interviews conducted for each AP. Due to the security situation in Baghdad, no in-depth interviews were conducted with local government officials. Because the CHF M&E team has two field monitors for the ACDI/VOCA AOR, the number of interviews conducted with local government in ACDI/VOCA's AOR was higher than for MC and CHF where there is only one monitor per AOR.

	CHF	ACDI/VOCA	MC
Government officials	2	6	4

III. Survey Results

This section provides the results of the CAP II final survey divided according to the sections of the questionnaire. In addition, the perspectives of CAP II mobilizers as well as local government officials are provided to explore and clarify the factors affecting economic development in CAP II AORs.

3.1 Community Action Groups

The questionnaire includes a complete section about CAGs in which the community members were asked if they can define a CAG. The results indicate that 40.5% from the whole survey can define a CAG correctly. The percentage within APs areas varied from 9.8% in MC areas, the lowest to 59.9% in IRD areas, the highest, while it was 28.5% for ACDI/VOCA and 55.9% in CHF AOR. The very low percentage in MC's AOR may be partly attributed low frequency of town meetings or perhaps an inability to reach all ethnic groups due to lack of diversity in the community mobilizers.

Table 3 – Who Can Define a CAG?

	ACDI/VOCA	MC	CHF	IRD	Total
Correct answer	28.5%	9.8%	55.9%	59.9%	40.5%
Wrong answer	2.8%	5.6%	2.9%	7.2%	4.5%
No answer	68.7%	84.2%	41.2%	32.9%	55%
Total #	70	70	102	70	312

On the other hand, a large percentage in all APs' areas from those who defined a CAG correctly said that a CAG is active in their community. These percentages are: 85% in ACDI/VOCA, 85% in MC, 88% in CHF and 93% in IRD areas.

About 57 of the community members surveyed have been or currently are CAG members. Table 4 indicates that 42.1% of the youth surveyed have been CAG members, while 24.6% of women surveyed have CAG experience. These percentages vary greatly among APs. The youth percentage is the lowest in IRD areas (15.4%) and the highest in ACDI/VOCA areas (81.8%), while the percentage of women who have been CAG members is the highest in MC areas (80%) and the lowest in ACDI/VOCA areas (9.1%). This variation may be due to the fact that there is no minimum percentage that APs are required to achieve for youth and women representation in CAGs.

Table 4 –CAG Experience

	ACDI/VOCA	MC	CHF	IRD	Total
Youth	81.8%	40%	39.3%	15.4%	42.1%
Adult	18.2%	60%	60.7%	84.6%	57.9%
Male	90.9%	20%	82.1%	69.2%	75.4%
Female	9.1%	80%	17.9%	30.8%	24.6%
Total #	11	5	28	13	57

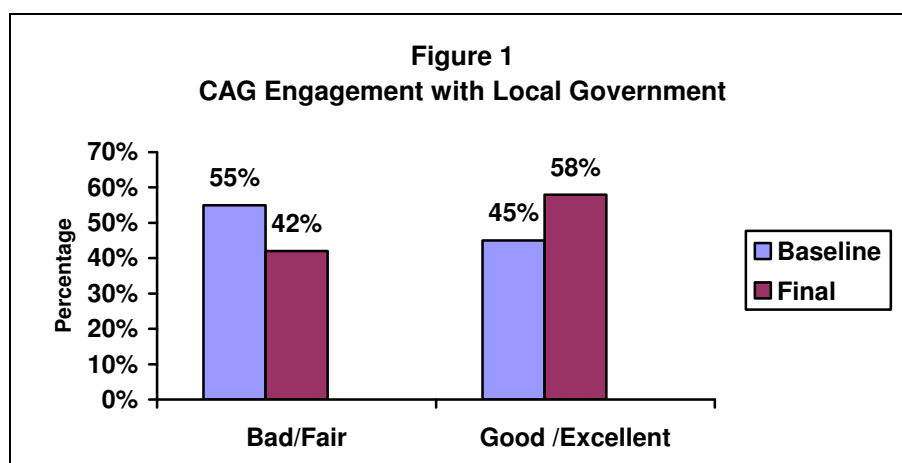
Those who have experienced CAG membership were asked an additional eleven questions about CAGs. Table 5 indicates that about one quarter reported that they used to meet once a week, while one third used to meet once every two weeks. About 22% usually meet once a

month and 15.6% meet once every two months. Only 3.4% reported that they never met. There was not a defined meeting schedule in the CAP II process, so the variation is simply due to AP and CAG preferences. The variation among APs as reported by the respondents is presented in Table (5).

Table 5 – Frequency of CAG Meetings

	ACDI/VOCA	MC	CHF	IRD	Total
Once a week	0	80%	34.5%	7.7%	26%
Once every two weeks	33%	0	25.5%	61.6%	33%
Once a month	25%	20%	21.5%	23%	22 %
Once every two months	33%	0	18.5%	0	15.6%
Never	9%	0	0	7.7%	3.4
Total #	12	5	28	13	58

The respondents were asked about the level of CAG engagement with local government. Those who described the involvement with the local government as bad or fair decreased from 55% to 42% while the percentage of those who described it in good or excellent condition increased from 45% in the baseline to 58% in the final survey (See Figure 1). CAP II placed great emphasis on encouraging CAG engagement with the local government to advocate for the needs of the community, seek approvals, and request budgetary support. The improvement in CAG engagement with local government is a direct result of CAP II training and technical support to CAGs.



Survey results indicate that CAG decisions are usually made by members after meeting together and coming to a consensus in the AORs of ACDI, MC and CHF. In IRD areas, the decisions are primarily made by the CAG leader after asking the CAG members as indicated in Table 6. This is simply due to the preferences of the CAG and respective APs.

Table 6 – CAG Decision Making

	ACDI/VOCA	MC	CHF	IRD	Total
The leader decides and then informs the members	0	0	14%	0	6%
The leader ask the members and then makes the decision	17%	20%	7.5%	100%	32%
The CAG discusses and comes to a consensus	75%	80%	75%	0	59%
The decision is made outside the CAG	8%	0	3.5%	0	3%
Total #	12	5	28	13	58

3.2 Economic Conditions

Overall, most respondents said their communities' economic conditions are fair. At the conclusion of CAP II, about 54.3% reported the economic condition as fair. The variation among AP areas is minimal as shown in Table 7.

Table 7 – Community Economic Conditions

	ACDI/VOCA	MC	CHF	IRD	Total
Very bad	8.7%	10%	2.9%	1.4%	5.5%
Bad	26.1%	20%	24.5%	7.1%	19.9%
Fair	49.3%	47.1%	59.8%	58.6%	54.3%
Good	13%	21.4%	9.8%	32.9%	18.3%
Excellent	2.9%	1.4%	2.9%	0	1.9%
Total #	70	70	102	70	312

During the focus group meetings, mobilizers gave more details about economic conditions. Speaking of general economic conditions, mobilizers noted that income levels are very low due to the unavailability of water for irrigating land in the agricultural areas as well as services and feed for livestock. They also reported that water and electricity are not available in most areas, affecting investment and production a fact reported by all AP mobilizers.

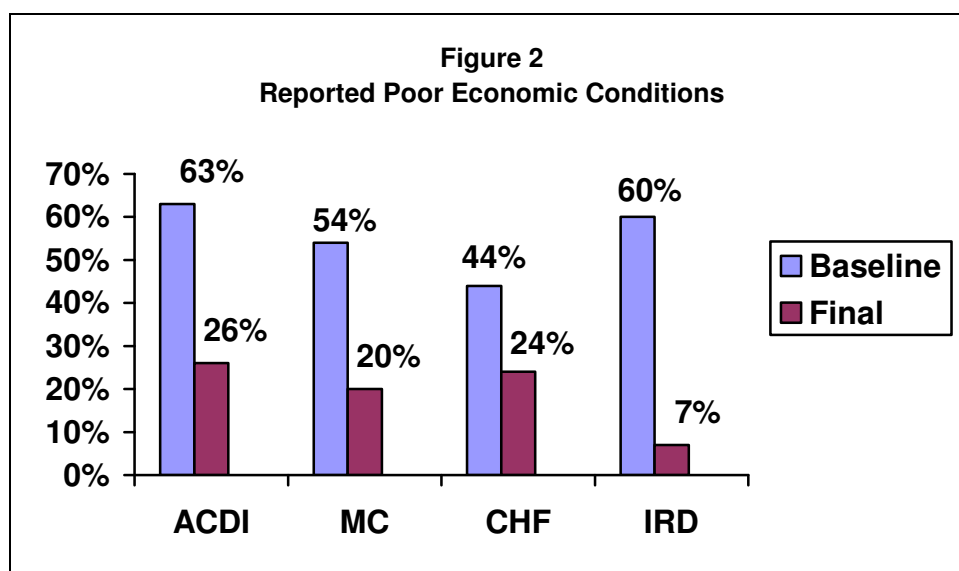


Figure 2 presents a comparison between the baseline and final survey results regarding those who reported that economic conditions were poor. In the ACDI/VOCA AOR, this perception decreased from 63% to 26%; in the MC AOR it was lowered from 54% to 20%; in the CHF AOR it decreased from 44 to 24%; but the largest difference was observed in IRD's AOR where reported poor economic conditions decreased from 60% to 7%.

Although about 50% of respondents across the Alliance reported fair economic conditions, the percentage of those who reported bad economic conditions significantly decreased since the baseline was conducted two years ago. In addition to external factors, this can be attributed to the services provided through CAP II funded projects, the newly-created economic opportunities, and the creation of jobs.

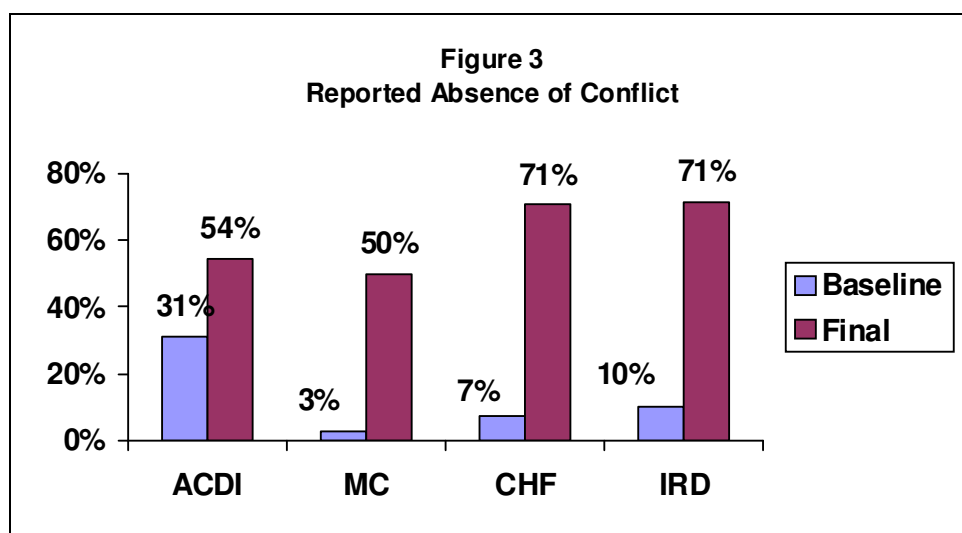
3.3 Conflicts in the Communities

The respondents were asked about the frequency of conflict in their communities. Across all partners, 62.5% reported that no conflict is taking place, while only 13.1% reported that conflict is occurring frequently. Across the entire alliance, the absence of conflict reported varied from 50% in MC communities to 71.4% in IRD's.

Table 8 – Frequency of Conflict in Communities

	ACDI/VOCA	MC	CHF	IRD	Total
None	54.3%	50%	70.6%	71.4%	62.5%
Rarely	15.7%	12.9%	20.6%	15.7%	16.7%
Occasionally	11.4%	15.7%	2.9%	2.9%	7.7%
Frequently	18.5%	21.4%	5.9%	10%	13.1%
Total #	70	70	102	70	312

The frequency of conflict has notably improved as presented in figure (3). It should be noted that in the baseline, the absence of conflict was reported by 31%, 3%, 7% and 10% for ACDI, MC, CHF, and IRD respectively. This percentage improved to be 54%, 50%, 70.6% and 71.4% respectively. This can be partly attributed to the availability of services in the communities benefiting from CAP II implemented projects and interventions.



Personal and family problems are the leading causes of conflict followed by the lack of electricity Table 9. Water, ethnicity, lack of social services and fuel are also main causes of conflict reported by 25 respondents across the entire Alliance. The causes of the conflict were neither ranked nor read to the respondents by the interviewers. Every respondent was allowed to provide three causes of conflict in the community. The focus group results were consistent with the survey results. The mobilizers in the focus groups indicated the same causes of conflict as the wider survey population. Additionally, they revealed that no more political conflict existed in their particular communities.

Table 9 – Reported Causes of Conflict in Communities

	ACDI/VOCA	MC	CHF	IRD	Total
Property	7	5	9	0	21
Electricity	5	12	10	14	41
Water	8	9	8	1	26
Access to food or food aid	0	3	1	4	8
Ethnicity/tribalism	6	13	1	6	26
Religion	1	4	2	0	7
Personal or family problems	20	2	17	10	49
Money	4	2	3	0	9
Fuel	6	6	6	1	19
IDP-related conflict	1	0	2	5	8
Lack of social services	3	15	8	1	27
Local government	0	14	2	1	17
Does not know	0	5	1	0	6
Others	1	4	0	1	6

Conflicts usually are resolved by community elders or respected community members, according to 58 interviewees. Local government officials and religious leaders (Sheikhs) are the second most commonly-cited resource for conflict resolution, cited by 16 and 18 respondents respectively. Thus, it can be concluded that CaGs do not play a significant role in conflict mitigation.

CAP II did contribute to decreasing the conflict prevalence in the community through economic development as well as the peaceful resolution of conflict by some community members; although, as stated before, local government officials, trained in conflict resolution through CAP II, played a larger role in this success. Inclusive and ethnically/religiously diverse CAGs also contributed to the decrease in violence by promoting cross ethnic/religious cooperation and understanding.

Table 10 – Who Resolves Conflicts in the Community?

	ACDI/VOCA	MC	CHF	IRD	Total
Local government officials	3	9	2	2	16
A civic elder in the community	6	17	25	10	58
A sheik	3	3	11	1	18
Friends	2	0	3	6	11
CAG members	0	0	0	2	2
The mayor	2	4	2	0	8
Police	9	6	10	3	28
Iraqi military	1	3	1	3	8
Nobody	1	0	0	0	1
Does not know	0	0	2	0	2
Others	3	0	1	0	4

3.4 Community Member Participation in Local Governance

Those surveyed were asked to name their local governor. The results showed that the percentage of those who know the name of the governor are for each AP as follows: ACDI/VOCA 84.3%, MC 77.1%, CHF 70.6%, and IRD 41.4%. This indicates that a majority of respondents outside of Baghdad were knowledgeable of local government leaders in some capacity.

To investigate the level of participation in local governance, people were asked about their involvement in civic activities. The results revealed that a significant portion participated in local government or civic activities (ACDI/VOCA 45.7%, MC 24.3%, CHF 36.3%, and IRD 40%). Additionally, those interviewed were asked about the civic activities in which they participated. Figure 4 indicates that the level of participation in civic activities increased since conducting the baseline survey except in MC's AOR, which decreased from 50% to 24%.

Although community-level engagement played a role, the proportional increase in the local governance can not be attributed only to CAP II. ICSP (Iraq Civil Society Program) and LGP (Local Governance Program), two USAID-funded projects implemented in the same AORs as CAP II, also undoubtedly contributed to this increase.

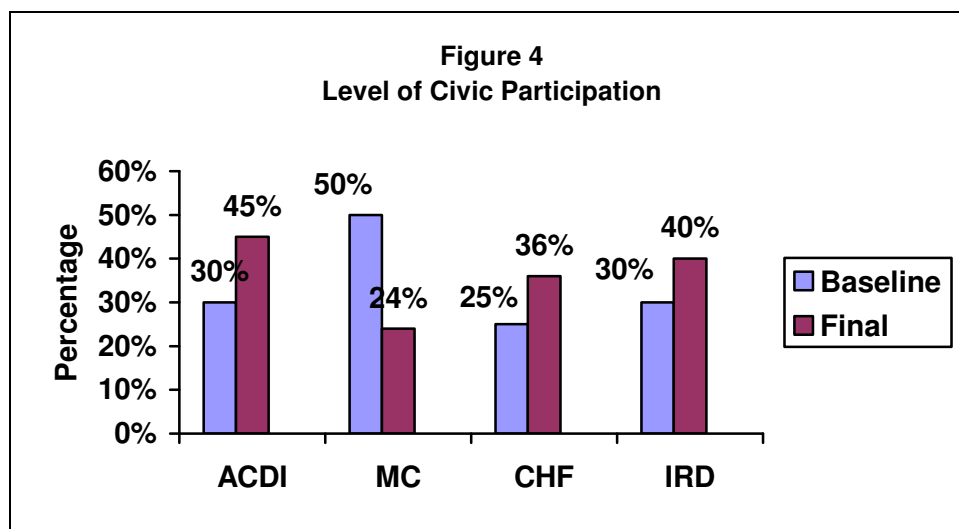


Table 11 presents the number of responses for each mentioned civic activity. Most of the respondents reported having attended local government meetings while only a few mentioned writing one or more petitions.

Table 11 – Civic Activities as Reported by the Respondents in each AP Area

	ACDI/VOCA	MC	CHF	IRD	Total
Attended local government meetings	16	1	14	9	40
Worked at a polling station during elections	8	5	12	11	36
Spoke at one or more public hearings	7	5	11	12	35
Wrote one or more petitions	1	0	10	3	14
Does not remember	0	0	1	0	1
Other	0	1	1	1	3

3.5 Employment and Unemployment

The respondents were asked if they are employed full time or part time. Across the entire Alliance, 67% of men are employed versus 78% of women. The higher percentage of women may be due to the proportional loss of men during war as well as the migration of others to find more opportunities in neighboring countries. Among APs, the lowest percentage of employed men is found in IRD areas while the highest is in ACDI/VOCA's. For women, the lowest percentage employed is found in CHF areas while the highest is in ACDI/VOCA areas. A significant difference between youth and adult employment was not observed.

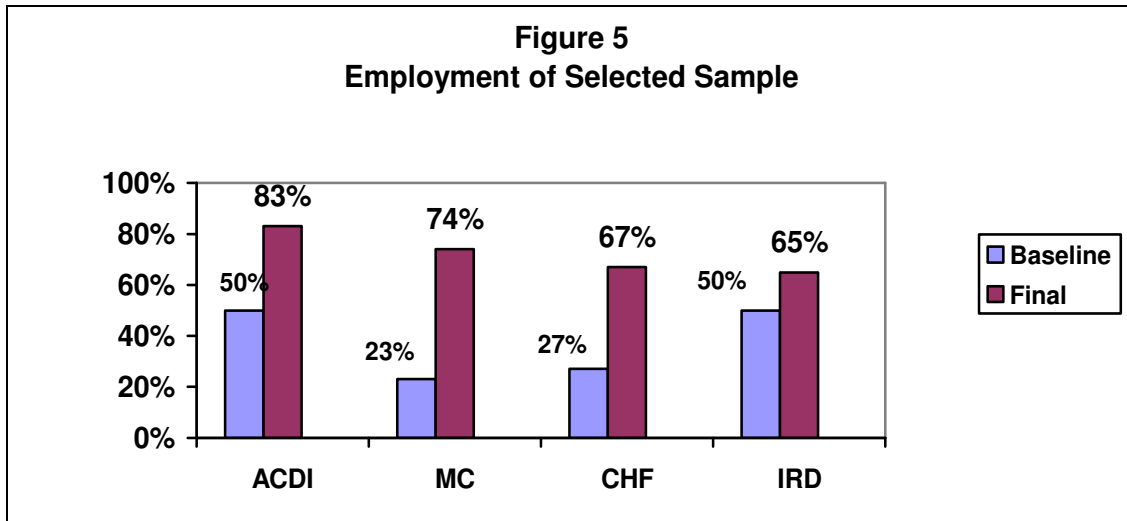
Table 12 – Full and Part Time Employment

		ACDI/VOCA	MC	CHF	IRD	Total
Male	Full time	82.4%	67.4%	66.7%	55.1%	67.8%
	Part time	3.9%	11.6%	12.6%	18.4%	11.7%
	Not working	13.7%	20.9%	20.7%	26.5%	20.4%
Total		51	43	87	49	230
Female	Full time	84.2%	81.5%	66.7%	76.2%	78%
	Part time	5.3%	0	6.7%	4.8%	3.7%
	Not working	10.5%	18.5%	26.7%	19%	18.3%
Total		19	27	15	21	82
Youth	Full time	81.4%	69.2%	67.3%	64.7%	71.4%
	Part time	7%	7.7%	14.3%	11.8%	9.9%
	Not working	11.6%	23.1%	18.4%	23.5%	18.6%
Total		43	52	49	17	161
Adult	Full time	85.2%	67.1%	66%	90.2%	77.1%
	Part time	0	8%	9.4%	9.8%	9.3%
	Not working	14.8%	24.9%	24.5%		21.2%
	Total #	27	18	53	53	151

During the focus groups, the issue of employment was discussed and the following issues were identified as causes of unemployment;

- There is no law governing retirement. Even those who are over the age of 70 often continue to work, thus increasing the number of people in the workforce and competition for jobs;
- The community is controlled by political parties who subsequently control community job opportunities. In addition, political parties often hire relatives regardless of qualifications;
- There is little basis for employing people; in other words, there is no clear criteria for selection and employment, often depending on ethnicity and relationships;
- Local governments refuse investment requests by foreign companies that could be valuable jobs to the community;
- Government does not support agriculture or protect local production which leads to the importation of most products;
- Most government factories are closed;
- The displacement or migration of some families from South to North, moving people from their place of employment and causing high levels of unemployment in the areas to which people have migrated;
- Local markets are unstable and commodity prices fluctuate.

Figure 5 shows the improvement in the level of employment in the AP's AORs over the course of CAP II. Significant increases ranged from 15% in IRD's area to 51% in MC's. This may be attributed, at least in part, to the jobs created from the implementation of CAP II activities and projects and new economic opportunities.

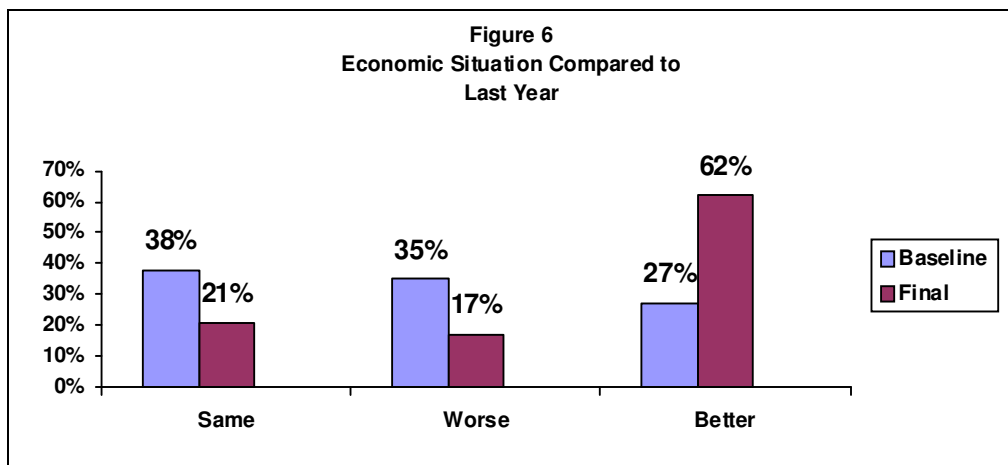


The questionnaire included questions about the current economic situation compared with last year. Most of the respondents reported a better economic situation than in the previous year (Table 13). The greatest improvement over the baseline was observed in IRD areas (71%) while the least is in CHF areas (51%). About 20% on average in all areas revealed that the economic situation is the same as last year.

Table 13 – Description of Economic Situation Compared with Last Year

	ACDI/VOCA	MC	CHF	IRD	Total
The same	20%	21%	27%	20%	21%
Worse	23%	16%	22%	9%	17%
Better	57%	63%	51%	71%	62%
Total #	70	70	101	70	311

Although improvements in security undoubtedly played a role in the improvement of the economic situation of those Iraqis surveyed, CAP II did have a positive economic effect on the communities in which it operated. Figure 6 shows this improvement compared to the baseline survey. Providing job opportunities as well as improving infrastructure and providing social services, such as health and education, positively impacted the economic situation of households in the AORs of CAP II.



IV. Perspectives on CAP II

4.1 CAP II Staff and Mobilizers

4.1.1 CAP II Enabling Factors and Constraints

A positive reputation, credibility, and dependability are all factors that helped CAP II and the established CAGs garner support of the local government and community. According to the focus groups, the enabling factors mentioned are as follows:

- Improvement and stability of the security situation;
- The credibility of APs as proven in CAP I;
- The positive interaction of CAG members and their desire to reach out to communities and identify their needs;
- Capacity building training CAGs receive;
- Improvement in local government support since CAP I;
- Hiring local mobilizers from the areas of project implementation;
- The flexibility in selecting new areas to work in as a result of improved security in the areas where CAP I worked;
- The allocated budget increase over CAP I;
- The increased availability of local contributions.

The most effective enabling factor is that some CAG members have positions in local government which, among other things, eases bureaucratic procedures. Local government CAG members also are seen as representing the whole community, improving the community's posture and the credibility of the CAG.

The main constraints which were mentioned by the mobilizers include:

- The dynamic, and often non-permissive, security situation;
- Some government officials remain uncooperative;
- Some of the communities asked for fees for the work provided to the implemented projects;
- Some of the local directorates interfered, deliberately constraining project implementation;
- The change of a local government project supervisor during project delivery resulted in his/her refusal to receive the project after completion;
- The delay of local contributions due to slow financial allocations to some communities;
- Difficulty of getting timely USAID approval for materials valued greater than \$5000.

4.1.2 CAG Strengths and Weaknesses

The mobilizers mentioned that the legitimacy of CAGs comes from their awareness of community needs since CAG members are from the communities they represent. CAG members also maintain positive relations with local authorities facilitating the granting of required approvals.

Moreover, CAG enthusiasm and the ability to learn from previous experience increased their capacity to fulfill their function. Other strengths included:

- CAG members were democratically selected;
- The variety of their specialization and representation of women and youth in CAGs;
- Representation of all ethnic groups, often times with multiple ethnic groups represented in a single CAG;
- Choosing CAG members from the community they represent, so they can better meet the needs and understand the circumstances facing the community.

Weaknesses of the CAGs mentioned during the focus groups were;

- Occasionally local authorities interfere in projects or do not provide required support;
- The government officials are sometimes jealous of CAG members because the publicity of CAGs within the community may threaten the power of the official in the community;
- There is no fixed meeting location for CAG meetings;
- The CAG has no official legal identity;
- Lack of coordination between CAGs and local government;
- Lack of experience in choosing project priorities;
- A number of CAGs are still not qualified enough to write proposals and manage projects without support from CAP.

CAG membership is volunteer work which is considered a burden for many members. Some CAG members cannot devote the time necessary being busy with their own work. Additionally, CAP II does not pay them for their transportation costs. Finally, CAGs have no official standing which makes their situation with the government much more complicated, especially with new government officials who are unfamiliar with the CAGs.

4.1.3 Relationship with Local Government

The mobilizers indicated during the focus groups that the relationship between a few CAGs and local government is strained. There is some sensitivity between government and CAG, because the latter works according to a bottom-up approach which differs from local government-supported projects. In addition, government officials sometimes accuse CAGs of being inefficient. These issues can occasionally lead to strained relationships, but for the most part, local government is supportive of the work of CAGs.

Positive factors mentioned in focus groups that affect the relationship:

- Holding regular meetings with local government;
- Conducting training for both CAG members and local government together;
- The CAG National Conference held for APs with the attendance of local government;
- Local authorities remain in their positions during the length of the projects;
- Cooperation from the local authorities;
- Dealing with non-corrupt government.

Negative factors mentioned in focus groups that affect the relationship:

- Difficulty of obtaining required approvals;
- Frequent changing of people in local government;
- Some decision makers in local government are not cooperative;
- Corruption in local government.

4.2 Stability, Instability and Economic Development

Local government officials were asked about the stability of communities. They reported that stability depends not only on security but also on economic conditions in terms of services available and secure, permanent jobs.

4.2.1 CAG sustainability

According to survey and focus group respondents, CAG sustainability would be best served by providing CAGs with a legal and formal identity perhaps as civil society organizations. Some mobilizers suggested establishing alliances among CAGs and organizing themselves to accomplish their work jointly and systematically. To make this a reality, CAGs need educated leaders who are willing to develop their skills and abilities in relation to community advocacy and planning. Also, CAG members need capacity building trainings to improve their efficacy.

The main factor that constrains CAG sustainability is the local authority fear that CAGs may take over their role and power in the community. It will take time for the CAGs to be accepted by government officials. There should be some effort to change attitudes of the local government to facilitate the continuation CAG projects when CAP II ends. Some CAGs already have the ability to continue after CAP II, for example in Abu Ghraib, Rashdiya, Adhamiya. These highlighted areas in particular have great potential because they are all controlled by tribal rule. The formulation of CAGs to include representatives from all ethnic groups promotes their cooperation to develop their communities, while often times the local government represents only the ethnic group of the central government. Although this only occurs in a limited number of areas, it is an example of an environment that encourages CAG sustainability.

4.3 Local Government Officials

4.3.1 Local Government's Capacity to Deliver Services

The local government officials reported that they are ready to fulfill their role in providing services to their communities; however, they are constrained by a lack of funds as well as the centralization of the decision-making process. Local government does not have a role in decision-making regarding project selection or fund allocation from the government. On the other hand, they reported that there are some investment opportunities through loans provided by the government as well as international donor agencies that could improve local government service delivery capacity.

4.3.2 Effectiveness of Local Governance

Local government officials reported that the participation of citizens in local governance was enhanced during the last year. Citizens became more willing to participate in elections in one example. One of the major factors contributing to the strengthening of local governance is national stability and security, which has seen significant improvement in the last year. However, officials revealed that more transparency would promote greater community participation in local governance. While CAP II does not focus on encouraging civic participation in local government, the ideals of community advocacy and mobilization promote the ideals of civic engagement. In other words, community coordination and relationship-building with local government is a positive by-product of necessary CAP II project interaction.

4.3.3 CAG's Level of Engagement with Local Government

The level of CAG engagement with local government was varied from one area to another. In some areas, the local government officials mentioned that the CAG members are representing their community well. They also mentioned that CAG members are well qualified to develop the project proposals and effectively implement projects, which encourages the government to provide required support and create strong relationships. Including one or two members in the CAG from the local government helps promote this relationship. In a few areas, however, local government officials complained that CAG members were unqualified and recommended including government officials in the CAG. CAGs must be careful to limit the influence of local government members while participating in CAG activities. They must focus on promoting a sense of equality among all members, regardless of perceived qualifications.

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

In general, it can be concluded that CAP II had a positive impact on the communities where APs implemented projects. CAP II contributed by creating job opportunities in the communities which resulted in improved economic conditions for beneficiaries. Moreover, it contributed to the security and stability of communities and decreased conflict by providing basic services such as water and electricity. It is important to note that CAGs are not effective in conflict mitigation circumstances, a role more effectively played by tribal, religious, and local government leaders.

CAP II also played a vital role in the enhancement of community participation in local governance through the practice of CAG elections and supervising and monitoring project implementation. These activities make them aware of their rights and capabilities in public participation and decision making.

CAP II strengthened the capacity of many Iraqis through the training and close monitoring provided by AP staff. However, the provided capacity building varied amongst APs, as explored during the focus groups. The strongest team of mobilizers was observed in ACDI/VOCA, who reported that CAG members received intensive training through capacity building in conflict resolution, community mobilization, project management and local governance. Other APs also provided training to CAGs but in less systematic ways.

5.2 Recommendations to USAID & Future CAP Implementers

Based on the final survey results, we recommend the following to USAID and future Community Action Program Implementers:

1. One of the major weaknesses of CAGs is that they do not have legal status. This partly explains why community members could not correctly define a CAG. To better empower CAGs in the community and to sustain them, there should be a plan for converting CAGs into legal entities, such as CSOs, or integrating them with local councils. Within this legal context, their role would be clear and identified in their communities and with local government officials.

2. The most successful CAGs were observed to have members from the local government. Therefore, it is recommended to develop a mechanism of collaboration among local governments and CAGs in such a way that does not compromise the integrity of the democratically elected CAG.
3. Capacity building plans should be developed and implemented to train local government officials to change their attitudes towards CAGs and recognize their role in identifying real community needs. Moreover, local government officials should be trained on fund raising and resource mobilization in support of community projects.
4. Given that the government has started to have an effective role in conflict resolution, we recommend enhancing this role by training local government officials in conflict resolution and providing them with technical assistance to develop any necessary laws and regulations.
5. To address decentralization in Iraq, a joint process of participatory planning should be conducted through a planning group including members from local government, CAG members and other community leaders, who would then develop a plan for community development according to identified and prioritized needs.
6. A large percentage of surveyed community members were not familiar with CAGs. However, the impact of CAP II projects, identified and implemented by CAGs members, was observed in these AORs in terms of better economic situations and community participation in local governance. This suggests the need to conduct larger and more frequent town-hall style meetings at the beginning of CAP III to reinforce the CAG role in identifying community needs and opportunities for economic development.

CAP II Final Survey Questionnaire
October, 2008

I. Section I: to be filled in by the enumerator before beginning the interview

1. Enumerator's name _____ and code number.....
2. AP code.....
3. Date of interview: Day (01, 02, 03 etc. to 31).....
 Month (01, 02, 03, etc. to 12).....
 Year (06, 07, 08, etc.).....
4. Enumerator: Please write down the formal name of the Governorate _____
5. Enumerator: Please write down the formal name of the District _____
6. Enumerator: Please write down the formal name of the Sub-district _____
7. Enumerator: Please write down the name of the Mahalla/street _____
8. Type of area.....
 1. Urban
 2. Semi-urban (includes small cities)
 3. Rural
 4. Other. Enumerator, please write it down:

II. Demographics

9. Age of the respondent.....
 Enumerator: Please write down the person's age (in years) or one of the codes below.
 1. Not sure
 0. No answer
10. Sex of the respondent.....
 1. Male
 2. Female
11. What is your level of education?
 1. Illiterate
 2. No formal education
 3. Primary school (some or completed)
 4. Middle school (some or completed)
 5. High school (some or completed)
 6. Islamic School (some or completed)
 7. Vocational secondary school or vocational training (some or completed)
 8. College (some or completed: a B.A. or B.Sc.)
 9. Post-graduate school (some or completed: Ph.D.)
 0. No answer
 10. Other answer. Enumerator, please write it down:

III. CAG Participation

12. Can you tell me what a CAG is?
 1. Right answer. Enumerator: write in this code and then go to question 13.
 2. Wrong answer. Enumerator: write in this code and then go to **question 24**.
 3. Partly correct answer. Enumerator: write in this code and then go to question 13.
 0. No answer Enumerator: write in this code and then go to **question 24**.

13. In your opinion, is the CAG active in this community?
 1. Yes
 2. No
 3. Does not know
 0. No answer

14. Have you ever been a member of a CAG?
 1. Yes. Enumerator: write in this code and then go to question 15 and continue with the questions.
 2. No. Enumerator: write in this code and then go to question 23 and continue.
 0. No answer. Enumerator: write in this code and then go to question 24 and continue.

15. What was your position in the CAG?
 1. Chairman
 2. Member of the Executive Committee
 3. Member of another committee
 4. Member
 5. Coordinator (a person who liaises with the AP)
 0. No answer
 6. Other answer. Enumerator, please write it down:

16. How long were you or have you been a member of the CAG?
 1. Less than 6 months
 2. Seven to 12 months
 3. Thirteen to 24 months
 4. Twenty-five months or more
 5. Not sure
 0. No answer

17. During the past 3 months, how often has your CAG met as a group (more than two people)?
 1. Usually once a week
 2. Usually once every two weeks
 3. Usually once a month
 4. Usually once every two months
 5. Never
 0. No answer

18. How are **most** decisions made in your CAG?

Enumerator, please ask the person to give **only one** answer

 1. The leader or leaders decide, and they inform the members
 2. The leader or leaders ask the CAG members what they think, and then make the decision himself/themselves
 3. The CAG members hold a meeting and come to a consensus
 4. The decision is made outside the CAG
 5. Does not know

- 0. No answer
- 6. Other answer. Enumerator, please write it down:

19. If the decision is made outside the CAG, who **usually** makes it?
 Enumerator, please ask the person to give **only one** answer

- 1. Local government officials
- 2. Local political party or parties
- 3. A religious leader or a religious group
- 4. Donors
- 5. Does not know
- 0. No answer
- 6. Other answer. Enumerator, please write it down:

20. Have you participated in any of your CAG's decision-making?
 1. Yes
 2. No
 3. Do not remember
 0. No answer
 4. Other answer. Enumerator, please write it down:

21. What is your opinion of your CAG's decision-making?
 1. Poor
 2. Fair
 3. Good
 4. Excellent
 5. No opinion
 0. No answer
 6. Other answer. Enumerator, please write it down:

22. In your opinion, what is the CAG's level of engagement with the local government at this time?
 1. Poor
 2. Fair
 3. Good
 4. Excellent
 5. Does not know
 6. No opinion
 0. No answer
 7. Other answer. Enumerator, please write it down:

23. In your opinion, how important for your community is the CAG's engagement with the local government?
 1. Not at all important.
 2. A little important.
 3. Of medium importance.
 4. Important.
 5. Very important.
 6. No opinion or does not know.
 0. No answer.
 7. Other answer. Enumerator, please write it down:

IV. Community Status

24. In your opinion, what is your community's economic condition at this time?

1. Very bad
2. Bad
3. Fair
4. Good
5. Excellent
6. No opinion
0. No answer
7. Other answer. Enumerator, please write it down:

25. Does the CAG have any good effect on your community's economic conditions?

1. No effect at all.
2. A little effect.
3. A medium effect.
4. A big effect.
5. A very big effect.
6. No opinion or does not know.
0. No answer
7. Other answer. Enumerator, please write it down:

26. Are there conflicts in your community at this time?

Enumerator: The phrase "this time" means in the last 12-months.

1. None
2. Rarely
3. Occasionally
4. Frequently
5. Do not know
0. No answer
6. Other answer. Enumerator, please write it down:

27. Please tell me the **three major** causes of conflict in your community at this time.

Enumerator: Do not read the list. Ask the person to tell you the three major causes of conflict in the community at this time. The phrase "this time" means in the last 12-months. Let the person answer. **A maximum of 3 answers are allowed.** Then record the three codes for the person's three answers on the lines that match his/her answers. It is all right if the person provides only one or two causes. Thank you.

1. Property.....
2. Electricity.....
3. Water.....
4. Access to food or food aid.....
5. Ethnicity/tribalism.....
6. Religion.....
7. Personal or family problems.....
8. Money.....
9. Fuel (for vehicles, household consumption etc.).....
10. IDP-related conflict.....
11. Lack of social services (health care, education, extension services).....
12. Local government.....
13. Does not know.....

0. No answer.....

14. Other answer. Enumerator, please write them down:

28. During the past two year, who **usually** resolved conflict in your community?

Enumerator: Do not read the list. Let the person speak. The person can give you **one or two** answers. A maximum of two answers are allowed.

1. Local government officials (such as the Mokhtar).....

2. A civic elder in the community (a respected person in the community).....

3. A sheik (religious leader) in the community.....

4. Friends or ordinary community members.....

5. CAG members.....

6. The mayor.....

7. Police.....

8. Coalition forces.....

9. Iraqi military.....

10. Nobody.....

11. Does not know.....

0. No answer.....

12. Other answers. Enumerator, please write them down:

29. Does the CAG have any role in resolving conflict in your community?

1. No role at all.

2. A small role.

3. A role of medium importance.

4. An important role.

5. A very important role.

6. No opinion.

0. No answer.

7. Other answer. Enumerator, please write it down:

30. In your opinion, during the past two year, how often were conflicts resolved peacefully in your community?

1. Sometimes

2. Most of the time

3. Always

4. Rarely

5. Never

6. Does not know

0. No answer

7. Other answer. Enumerator, please write it down:

V. Participation in Local Governance

31. Can you tell me the name of your governor?

Enumerator: Please write down the name of the Governor that the person says.

Please make sure that you know the name of the Governor in your survey area.

Governor's name: _____

Code: _____

1. Correct.

2. Incorrect.

3. The person does not know.
0. No answer.

32. To what extent do local government and local leaders pay attention to the concerns that people like you express, when they make their decisions?

1. They do not pay any attention at all.
2. They pay a little attention.
3. They pay an average amount of attention.
4. They pay much attention.
5. They pay very much attention.
6. Does not know
0. No answer
7. Other answer. Enumerator, please write it down:

33. During the past two year, have you participated in any local government or civic activities?

For example: attending a local-government meeting, signing a petition, or speaking at a public hearing.

Please remember that going to a public hearing and only listening is not participation.

1. The person does not remember if he/she participated in local government or civic activities last year
Enumerator: Please put in the code for this answer and then go to question 35 and continue.

2. No, I did not.....
Enumerator: Please put in the code for this answer and then go to question 35 and continue.

3. Yes, I did.....
Enumerator: Please put in the code for this answer and then go to question **34** and continue.

0. No answer.....
Enumerator: Please put in the code for this answer and then go to question 35 and continue.

34. If yes, in which local government or civic activities did you participate last year?

Enumerator: The person can give **as many answers** as he/she wants. Please write down the codes for the answers in the spaces provided.

1. Attended local government meetings.....
2. Worked at a polling station during an election.....
3. Spoke at one or more public hearings.....
4. Wrote one or more petitions.....
5. Does not remember.....
0. No answer.....
6. Other answers. Enumerator, please write them down:

VI. Employment

35. Are you employed full-time or part-time at this time?

1. Full-time
Enumerator: Please write in the code and then go to question 36 and continue.
2. Part-time

Enumerator: Please write in the code and then go to question 36 and continue.

3. No, I am not employed at this time.

Enumerator: Please write in the code and then go to question 37 and continue.

0. No answer.

Enumerator: Please write in the code and then go to question 38 and continue.

36. Do you have a secondary income?

Enumerator: This means income from a second job.

1. Yes

2. No

0. No answer

3. Other answer. Enumerator, please write it down:

37. Please tell me **the main reason** for why you are unemployed.....

Enumerator: Do not read this list. Let the person answer. Only **one answer** is allowed. Ask the person to tell you the main reason that he/she is unemployed.

1. Place of employment closed because of the war

2. Insecurity getting to work or insecurity at work

3. Transportation problems

4. Lack of education (lack of skills)

5. Household responsibilities

6. Lost my own business because of the war

7. Lost my job when Iraq's economy declined after 2003

8. Ethnic or religious discrimination

9. Handicapped or injured

10. No need to work (supported by someone, receives remittances or disability payments)

11. Student

12. Retired

13. I do not work because of my religious customs

0. No answer

14. Other answer. Enumerator, please write it down:

38. How many people live in your household, including yourself?

Enumerator: Please write in the number.

39. How many people who live in your household are employed now, either full-time or part-time, including yourself?

Enumerator: Please write in the number.

40. What is your household's economic situation now, compared to a year ago?

1. The same

2. Worse

3. Better

4. Does not know

0. No answer

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Instructions for conducting focus group discussions and interviews

1. The focus group discussions probably will take 1-2 hours and include 6-8 participants, while the interviews with individual staff probably will take about one hour. Please ask staff when have the time for focus group discussions or individual interviews so that they are prepared to take the amount of time necessary to answer the questions.

2. To ensure good quality of the focus groups, it is better to have two peoples conducting the focus group; one moderator and one reporter. The moderator will be responsible for asking questions, organizing discussion and make sure that all participants have equal opportunities to express themselves. The reporter will be responsible for careful recording all answers and notes as stated by individuals.

3. Please ask the questions and then wait for people to answer. Do not suggest answers. If people do not answer, repeat the question and say “Please, I’d like you’re opinion about this. Your views are valuable.”

If necessary, rephrase the question and explain it, but do not suggest answers. Your task is to get people to express themselves. It is alright to sit in silence and let people think for a while, and then to repeat the question.

Ask neutral questions to get more information from the group. An example of a neutral question is: “Are there other positive factors you can tell me about that help you get your work done?”

An example of a that is not neutral is: “Isn’t community solidarity a factor that helps you get your work done?”

This is called a leading question because you are giving the person a suggestion or answer. Please do not do this! Your task is to get people to give you their answers.

You can question a person about his/her answer if you do not understand it or if you think it does not make sense. It is your responsibility to get enough information to understand the answer. Write down what the person says and if you think it is a strange answer, ask the group what they think. Let the group come to a consensus and give you an answer. If you are interviewing an individual, write down what he/she says and after the interview you can write in a note about the answer, for example saying “this information is not clear but he could not explain it more” or “I do not think that this is correct but the person said so.”

4. Continue to ask “Anything else?” and give the group or person time to answer. Ask “Anything else” until they have no more answers or comments on a question. Let the group or person end the discussion on each question, not you.

5. The reporter should take very detailed, extensive notes on what the mobilizers say! If you and the focus group sit around a table the reporter can use a laptop computer to type what they say directly into the computer. This will save time writing what people say and also in organizing your notes after the discussion.

Do not use a desktop computer because it separates you from the group or an individual, which is not good!

Use paper and pen when you are interviewing people outside the office. It is not appropriate to use a laptop when you are interviewing people outside the office.

6. It is very important to review your notes right after each focus group or individual interview. This is when you can add details that you remember but did not write down, organize the information, edit it so that it is well written, and see where you need more information.

7. If you review your notes after you have organized and edited them and see that you are missing some information, you can ask CAP II staff for some more of their time to get the information that you need.

However, do not ask other people for more of their time to answer questions. That is not appropriate. That is why it is important to take good notes and make sure that you understand the answers to each question as you are doing the interview.

Questions for the CAP II Mobilizers' Focus Groups October 2008

1. Are there positive factors that contributed to implementing CAP II in your AOR?

(Note: 'positive factors' also are called enabling factors. They are any and all aspects of the project and its environment that enable you to get your work done. Enabling factors can include: aspects of the project's organization, for example: having computers available to use for work, or having staff who know the areas where they work and speak the local language/s. Enabling factors also can be related to the project's social, political, security, and economic environment).

- What are these positive factors?

2. Are there constraints on implementing CAP II in your AOR?

(Note: 'constraints' are factors that are obstacles to your work or make your work impossible to do. Constraints may exist at any and all levels of the project and its environment. For example, constraints may be: insufficient vehicles or staff training, or any factors in the project's social, political, security, and economic environment).

- What are these constraints?

3. Can you tell me what the CAGs' strengths are?

(For example: CAG members are educated, or they are motivated, or they better know the community, or...).

(Interviewer: please write down all the CAGs' strengths that the staff report, and then ask them to tell you the most common strengths).

4. Can you tell me what problems the CAGs have?

(Interviewer: please write down all the CAGs' problems that the staff report, and then ask them to tell you the most common problems).

5. What are the reasons that CAGs are active?

("Active" means meeting as a group, getting funding, completely involved in the implementation, and doing a project every year).

(Interviewer: please write down all the reasons that staff report, and then ask them what are the most common reasons).

6. What are the reasons that CAGs are not active?

(Interviewer: please write down all the reasons that staff report, and then ask them what are the most common reasons).

7. Do CAGs do anything to try and solve these problems? What do they do?

(Interviewer: please write down all the things that staff report that CAGs do to try and solve their problems, and then ask them what CAGs usually do to try and solve their problems).

If yes: what do they do?

If not: why not?

8. What do you think about the CAGs' ability to continue working as groups and getting local projects done when CAP II ends?

(Sustainability).

9. Are there factors that you think will make CAGs sustainable?

(‘Sustainable’ means factors that will help CAGs stay together as groups and work on community development when CAP II ends)

10. Are there factors that you think will make CAGs’ unsustainable?

(‘Unsustainable’ means factors that will make it difficult or impossible for CAGs to stay together as groups and work on community development when CAP II ends)

11. In general, how are the CAGs’ relationships with local government?

(‘Relationships’ means how the CAGs and local government treat each other and work together. In general, what kind of social and political relationships do CAGs and local governments have? That means, are their relationships antagonistic, or ok, or what?)

12. What are the factors that affect the relationship between CAGs and the local government?

- Positive factors that affect the relationship?
- Negative factors that affect the relationship?

13. In your experience, how are most decisions made in CAGs?

(Members vote, members and leaders vote...)

14. In your experience, if CAG decisions are made outside the CAG, who usually makes them?**15. In general, what are the CAGs’ level of engagement with local government at this time?****16. Does the CAGs’ engagement with local government have any effects on the community?**

- If yes: what effects?
- If no: why not?

17. In general, what are the local governments’ opinions about the CAGs at this time?**18. In general, what are the economic conditions in the communities where you work at this time?**

(Interviewer: please write down the range of economic conditions that staff report, and then ask them what conditions are the most common).

19. What are the major factors that affect economic conditions in the communities where you work?

(Interviewer: please write down all the factors that staff report, and then ask them what factors are the most common).

20. How often are there conflicts in the communities where you work?**21. Usually, what are the causes of these conflicts?**

(Interviewer: please write down all the causes that staff report, and then ask them what causes are the most common).

22. Who usually resolves these conflicts?

(Interviewer: please write down all the different answers from staff, and then the most common answers).

23. Do the CAGs have any role in resolving community conflicts?

- If yes: what role?
- If no: why not?

24. In general, how often are conflicts resolved peacefully in the communities where you work?**25. In your opinion, when local government and local leaders make decisions, do they pay any attention to community members' opinions about the decisions?**

- If yes: how important are community members' opinions in the decision? how often do local government and local leaders pay attention to community members' opinions?
- If no: why not?

26. In your experience, approximately what proportion (percent) of community members participated in local government or civic activities last year?
(is this something that mobilizers would know?)**27. Are most people employed full-time, part-time, or not at all in the communities where you work?****28. Approximately what proportion (percent) of people in the communities where you work have a secondary income?****29. Where do people get their secondary incomes?**

(Interviewer: please write down all the sources of secondary incomes that staff report, and then ask them what are the most common sources).

30. What are the reasons for unemployment in the communities where you work?

(Interviewer: please write down all the reasons that staff report, and then ask them what are the most common reasons).

Questions for Local Government Officials

October 2008

1. In your opinion, how active are ordinary citizens in local government?

(Interviewer: this means, how much do they participate in civic activities, elections, civic activities, voicing their opinions about local government's actions and decisions. "Grassroots democracy")

-What are the factors that make citizens more active?

-What are the factors that make citizens less active?

2. How effective is local governance, in your opinion?

(Interviewer: this means, how well do all the different people--ordinary citizens, local officials, traditional and religious leaders--who participate in local government do the job of running the local government? do they get done what they should get done?)

-If all these people get the job of running the local government done and done well, what are the factors that help them?

-If all these people do not get the job done, why not?

3. Please tell me what factors affect community development here. (Ali: does 'here' mean in the community or the local area?)

(Interviewer: please write down all the factors that the person says).

4. What is the level of community conflict here? (or is it 'local area' ?)

(Interviewer: please write down what the person says and then write down one of these words to summarize what he/she said: no conflict, rarely, occasionally, frequently.

-What are the 3 major reasons for the conflict?

5. What is your opinion of the local capacity to deliver services to the community (local area?) at this time?

Sohini and Ali: what level of "local capacity" does this mean? The phrase is from objective 1, "implementing tangible projects that build local capacity to improve the delivery of local services."

(Interviewer: this means, does the local government (Ali/Sohini, is LG correct?) have the money, the materials, and the people it needs to deliver the services that community members need--such as water, electricity, health care, education?)

-If not: why not?

6. What is your opinion about ordinary citizens' level of engagement with local government at this time?

-If citizens' engagement is ok or good or strong: why, what are the factors that make citizens' engagement with local government positive?

-If citizens' level of engagement is poor or worse than poor: why, what are the factors that make citizens' level of engagement with local government poor?

7. Are there any opportunities for community-level economic development in your community (Sohini/Ali: or should it be 'local area') at this time?

(Interviewer: opportunities such as the revival of small businesses, a local factory has opened, there is a new transportation system...)

- If yes: what opportunities?
- If no: why not?

8. Have any people in this community received assistance from the Marla Fund (Marla Ruzicka Iraqi War Victims Fund)?

(Interviewer: please find out about how many people, how many were men or women, and what type of assistance they received, if you can).

- What are these men and women doing now?
- In general, what is their economic condition?

9. Has the Marla Fund funded community-level activities in this community (Ali: should it be 'local area')?

- If yes: how many community activities?
- What type of community activities?

10. Did these Marla Fund community-level activities have any effects on the community?

- If yes: what effects?
- If no: why not?

11. In general, how is the CAG's relationships with local government?

('Relationships' means how the CAGs and local government treat each other and work together. In general, what kind of social and political relationships do CAGs and local governments have? That means, are their relationships antagonistic, or ok, or what?)

12. What are the factors that affect the relationship between the CAG and the local government?

- Positive factors that affect the relationship?
- Negative factors that affect the relationship?

13. In general, what is the CAG's level of engagement with local government at this time?

(Interviewer: please write down what the person says. Then choose one of these words that matches what he says and write it down also: poor, fair, good, excellent).

14. Does the CAGs' engagement with local government have any effects on the community?

- If yes: what effects?
- If no: why not?

15. How many CAG members here also are officials in the local government?

(Interviewer: please write down the total number of CAG members in the community and the number of CAG members who also are local government officials).

16. Can you tell me what the CAG's strengths are?

(For example: CAG members are educated, or they are motivated, or...).

(Interviewer: please write down all the CAGs' strengths that the person says).

17. Can you tell me what the CAG's weaknesses are?

(Interviewer: please write down all the CAGs' problems that the person says).

18. What are the reasons that the CAG is active?

("Active" means meeting as a group, getting funding, doing a project every year).

(Interviewer: please write down all the reasons that the person says and then ask him/her what are the most important reasons).

19. What are the reasons that the CAG is not active?

(Interviewer: please write down all the reasons that staff report, and then ask them what are the most common reasons).

20. What do you think about the CAG's ability to continue working as a group and getting local projects done when CAP II ends?

(Sustainability).

21. Are there factors that you think will make the CAG sustainable?

('Sustainable' means factors that will help CAGs stay together as groups and work on community development when CAP II ends)

22. Are there factors that you think will make the CAG unsustainable?

('Unsustainable' means factors that will make it difficult or impossible for CAGs to stay together as groups and work on community development when CAP II ends)