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Az Zubair Primary Health Center To Provide Modern Medical Services

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 Gulf Region South



Az Zubair Primary Healthcare Center will enhance the healthcare services to the Iraqi people. USACE photo by A. Al-Bahrani

BASRAH, Iraq – With the goal of developing basic medical services and boosting the health care infrastructure, which was badly neglected during the former regime, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is building a modern primary healthcare center (PHC) in the Az Zubair district of Basrah.

“The \$417,912 facility is being built by local contracting companies with quality assurance being managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,” said Ruth Richmond, USACE contracting officer with Gulf Region South. “The goal is to provide routine and initial emergency care to the region.”

According to Richmond, in addition to providing comprehensive medical care services, the PHC will support the local economy by using available local materials in its construction. Being built by local

contractors, the facility will meet current Iraqi building standards and employs local Iraqis at all levels of the project.

“This facility includes a water purification system, mechanical systems (both air conditioning and heating), exam rooms, dental rooms, an X-ray facility, laboratories, class rooms, a pharmacy and a café,” said Stan Dowdy, a GRS resident engineer.

He noted that USACE also supervised the connection of new 500kv and 35kv generators to a massive transformer for



Iraqi workers install the sink cabinet at the Az Zubair Primary Healthcare Center. USACE photo by A. Al-Bahrani



*An Iraqi worker paints the interior walls at Az Zubair Primary Healthcare Center.
USACE photo by A. Al-Bahrani*

emergency power. "The Corps is trying to help the Iraqi people, particularly those in the area who are poor and suffered from the lack of health services for a long time," he said. "Once this clinic is completed, more than 250,000 people will receive modern medical care close to home."

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Providing these new and additional medical services will help reduce the infant mortality rate of the area, according to Ihsan Ali, project engineer with GRS.

"The new construction will enhance the capacity and capabilities of the healthcare services," he said. "Doctors and nurses there will use new modern equipment for the first time in 20 years to help meet the primary care and urgent care needs of the Az Zubair district."

He added that the contract includes providing furniture and equipment for the facility.

"It's a great job when you make prompt medical treatment available to those who need it," said Dowdy. "That's what keeps us going."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region South, Basrah Area Office oversees 300-plus projects, including the construction of 15 PHCs, rehabilitating water treatment plants, building power plants, sewer networks, paving roads, renovating schools, refurbishing oil facilities and rebuilding Iraq's security through its Army and police force.