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Primary healthcare centers relieve hospital workload

By Lana Aziz
Gulf Region North

Nineveh Province, Iraq— Eight primary healthcare centers designed to provide essential medical care are nearing completion in underdeveloped urban and rural areas of the Nineveh Province in Northern Iraq. Each is expected to directly benefit 35,000 Iraqi people per year.

Marilyn Kwentus, a senior construction engineer for the US Army Corps of Engineers overseeing the construction said three types of clinic designs are being built for the Nineveh Province. "Type A [clinics] offer basic care that include six doctors' offices with adjoining examination rooms, an x-ray room, two dental exam rooms, a pharmacy, two treatment rooms, and a classroom," she said.

Kwentus explained that Type B facilities have additional classrooms upstairs and a different type of x-ray machine. Type C clinics are the same as Type A, but with an emergency room, a minor procedure room, a labor and delivery room, a nursery and doctors' living quarters. In Nineveh, there are five Type A clinics, a Type B, and two Type Cs.

Michael Carney, project engineer for the Corps' area office in Mosul, started work on the health clinics in February 2005. "I have three health clinics in the area that are substantially complete and will be turned over to the Iraqi Ministry in the near future. Three more will be finished by the end of next month," he said.

"Health Clinics are the most important



projects after the electricity system," he said. "The Corps of Engineers is satisfying their commitment to delivering modern health care to the Iraqi people by working with Iraqi contractors." Carney explained that each completed primary health care clinic relieves area hospitals of a huge outpatient care load.

"This provides better healthcare services to the Iraqi people; which is greatly needed. I extended my deployment in Iraq to finish this project and it's coming close to being finished," he added.

Carney said the Iraqi contractor building one of these health clinics is excited about his project being near completion. "The Iraqi people in that neighborhood are proud of this facility and they want to see health care clinics being built. So, when this contractor faces problems, the neighbors of that construction site are very helpful, and they're protective of their health clinic."

Carney added that the Director General of Health in the Nineveh Province also recognizes how badly these clinics are needed. Four are replacing smaller existing clinics. The other four are providing health services where there are insufficient healthcare facilities in the area. Additionally, the Corps of Engineers renovated two maternity hospitals and a general hospital, and added a cardiac wing to a teaching hospital in Mosul.

Healthcare delivery is about delivering quality services using modern techniques and equipment for better healthcare at the provincial and community level. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq provides quality, responsive engineering services in support of military and civilian construction. The Nineveh health clinics and the four renovated hospitals are tangible results of American investment in Iraq.



Six primary healthcare centers in the Ninewa Province will be turned over soon to the Government of Iraq. With the capacity of treating about 100 patients daily, Type A clinics offer basic care that include six doctors' offices with adjoining examination rooms, an x-ray room, two dental exam rooms, a pharmacy, two treatment rooms, and a classroom. Type B and C clinics offer the same basics, plus some specialty medical

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