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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Al-Qurna Clinic Provides 'More Than Standard' Healthcare

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BASRAH, Iraq - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region South district turned over another newly constructed Primary Healthcare Center (PHC) to the Basrah Health Directorate in May 2007.

The PHC is located in the Al-Qurna district, and marks another step toward the transition to the future of Iraq's Health Care System.

"Al-Qurna PHC project was completed on May 28 and has been designed to provide comprehensive medical care services for more than 30,000 patients each year," said project engineer James Hodges, Basrah Area Office, Gulf Region South district.

"The two-story 1,155-square meter structure is equipped with modern medical and office equipment, furnishings and consumables," said Hodges.

"The new facility has rooms for vaccinations, medical/dental examination, a testing laboratory, treatment rooms and space dedicated for X-rays, pharmacy and public education," he explained.

According to Faris Abood, Chief, Technical Department, Basrah Health Directorate, "the facility will provide much more than a standard health clinic in Al-Qurna district" and is viewed by the Directorate as the single most important development within the Iraqi health care system.



The Al-Qurna Primary Healthcare Center in northern Basrah province includes physician and administrative offices, examination rooms, a pharmacy, laboratory and cafe. [USACE Photo by Al Bahrani]

"Al-Qurna PHC will significantly enhance the strength and reliability of the healthcare services for the Basrah province and will provide services which are currently not available to people in the region," he said.

"This is not the only project of this magnitude that GRS is working on in the Basrah province. There are 10 other similar projects; nine of these are Type-A facilities and the other one is a Type-C facility, which includes a full-service hospital, and emergency trauma and maternity centers," Hodges explained.

“The PHC program was conceived to offer a network of facilities for which medical personnel can provide quality medical and dental care to large segments of the population who may not have access to medical care,” said Hodges.

The \$500,000 project has been designed to make health care more accessible to the people of Iraq and provide essential care to people in undeveloped urban and rural areas, stated Hodges.



The Al-Qurna Primary Healthcare Center designed and built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region South district included physician and administrative offices, examination rooms, a pharmacy, laboratory and cafe. [USACE Photo by Al Bahrani]

Editor’s Note: A. Al Bahrani is a public affairs specialist with Gulf Region South district, Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, contact the public affairs office at 540-665-1233, by email at CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil, or visit www.grd.usace.army.mil.