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Minister of Health Visits New Karkh PHCs

By Travis Edwards
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Gulf Region Division Commander Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh (left) and Government of Iraq's acting Minister of Health Dr. Sultan (right) review the dental wing of the \$938,000 Al-Washhash primary healthcare center during a visit to the center.. [USACE Photo]

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Iraqi Minister of Health visited two Primary Healthcare Centers in Karkh observing the clinics progress since their completion earlier this summer.

Dr. Sultan, the Minister of Health, was accompanied by Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh, commanding general of the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "I am very pleased with the healthcare centers," said Sultan, "They are very impor-

tant to helping the Iraqi people."

The Gulf Region Division's \$254 million primary healthcare center program is 95 percent complete, according to Walsh.

"The PHCs are being built near the people they will serve in *muhallas*, or neighborhoods, all across Iraq," Walsh said. "Originally designed to see 110 patients per day, some PHCs are treating upwards of three times that number."

The two healthcare centers visited, Al-Washhash and Al-Hibna, are located in the north and south of Karkh, a neighborhood of Baghdad.

Al-Washhash Primary Healthcare Center:

- The project is a Type-A design two-story facility providing space for medical/dental examination and treatment as well as X-ray capabilities, vaccination, testing



The Al-Washhash primary healthcare center project is a Type-A design two-story facility providing space for medical/dental examination and treatment as well as X-ray capabilities, vaccination, testing lab, pharmacy, and public education. [USACE Photo]

lab, pharmacy, and public education

- Construction began in August 2006 and was completed in April 2007

- The project cost \$938,000 and was funded through the Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund

The Gulf Region Central district of the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provided quality assurance and control for the project.

Al-Hibna Primary Healthcare Center:

- The project is a Type-B design two-story facility providing space for medical/dental examination and treatment as well as X-ray capabilities, vaccination, testing lab, pharmacy, public education, training center and medical library.

- Construction began in July 2006 and was completed in June 2007

- The project cost \$915,000 and was funded through the Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund

The Gulf Region Central district of the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provided quality assurance and control for the project.

The healthcare centers come in three designs:

- Type A facilities include physician and administrative offices, examination rooms, pharmacy, laboratory and café.

- Type B facilities include the same amenities but do double duty as teaching facilities. They also have two classrooms, a medical library and additional storage.

Type C facilities are the largest model which adding emergency room and labor delivery facilities. They also have a nursery, conference room, teaching facilities and residential apartments for four doctors.

According to recent trends in Baghdad PHCs, the Al-Washhash and Al-Hibna facilities that were each originally expected to see approximately 110 patients each



Both the Al-Hibna and Al-Washhash primary healthcare centers are two story facilities. Both projects were managed by the Gulf Region Central district of the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers providing quality assurance and control for the projects. [USACE Photo]



Construction began on the \$938,000 Al-Washhash primary healthcare center in August 2006 and was completed in April 2007 and was funded through the Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund. [USACE Photo]

day may now see more than 300 patients each day per clinic.

“Each patient that goes to a local healthcare center is one less patient who seen by regional hospitals helping to reduce their heavy workloads,” Walsh said.

There are currently 65 healthcare centers under construction. Forty-eight have been completed and turned over to the Ministry of Health. Of those centers, 16 are open and seeing patients and 32 are not yet open.

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