



For Immediate Release
 August 24, 2007
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

New Sewer System Supports East Baghdad Residents

By Norris Jones
 Gulf Region Division Central

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Raw sewage is no longer inundating a neighborhood in east Baghdad. Residents in Oubadi, located near Sadr City, are benefiting from a recently completed \$14.9 million Gulf Region Central district project that connected their homes for the first time ever to a new functioning sewer collection system.

“People there are very pleased with the improvement,” said Iraqi engineer Mustafa Haddad who works for the GRS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “For over two years we’ve been working on this project and the community has been very supportive throughout. They were using slit trenches and lakes of raw sewage, which presented a definite health hazard.”

More than 24 kilometers of sewer pipe were installed, ranging in size from 110 millimeters for house connections to 800 millimeter trunk lines. In addition four pump stations were constructed with the largest having the capacity to pump 600 liters per second.

“About 80,000 residents were positively impacted by this project. They appreciate our efforts and are seeking help with other community improvements. We’re currently working on a new \$1.3 million water network project there it is 50 percent finished and will ensure they have better access to fresh potable water.”

Haddad is the Deputy Resident Engi-



Iraqi workers place cement at one of four new pump stations managed by the Gulf Region South district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in May 2007 in Oubaidi, a neighborhood of Baghdad, Iraq. [USACE photo]

ner of USACE’s Loyalty Office located south of Sadr City. Over 20 Iraqi engineers work out of the office overseeing over \$125 million in infrastructure improvements in east Baghdad, from school and hospital renovations, electric network upgrades, road paving, and new water treatment facilities.

Haddad has put up with mortars, one of his fellow Iraqi engineers was gunned down after visiting a school project, other office workers have been injured, and he personally has been targeted by insurgents and had to move his family to a different area.

"We're here because we know how important this work is for our country and our people. Yes, it's a difficult time. But those in need are looking for help and we're going to continue to do everything we can to offer it to them," he said.

"Their streets are now dry and clean. They see their government is working and things are getting better," said Haddad who is overseeing more than 20 sewer projects similar to the one just completed in Oubaidi.

The 29-year-old earned a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Baghdad's University of Technology.

"My family worries about me and the dangers I face. But they understand how important this work is. We need to keep making things better and someday soon Iraq will turn the corner."



Iraqi workers used heavy machinery to help make room for a new sewer system in Oubaidi, a neighborhood in Baghdad, Iraq. Before the sewer project was completed raw sewage collected in the streets causing health hazards for residents. The new sewer collection system is now fully operational having recently been completed by the Gulf Region South district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. [USACE photo]

Editor's Note: Norris Jones is a Public Affairs Specialist with the Gulf Region Central district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, contact him at 540-665-1233 or email CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil, or visit www.grd.usace.army.mil.