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## *Iraq's Health System in Better Condition Than Before*

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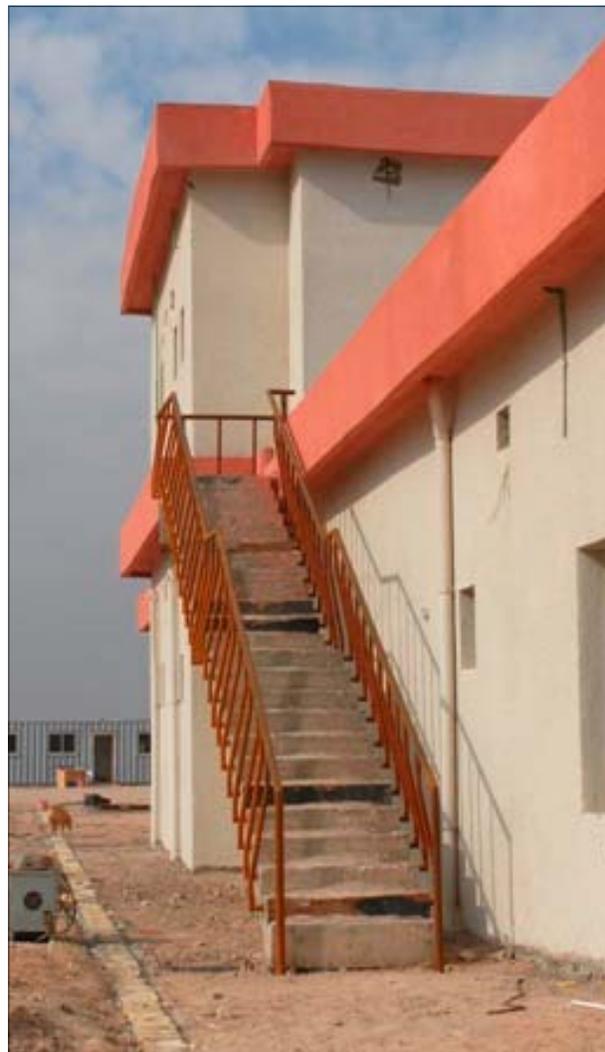
Basrah, Iraq—Residents of Al Zahrawi in the Basrah province will soon be able to get medical care without having to travel to Basrah City, thanks to the efforts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' southern district.

The Corps projects that by March 1, 2008, a new primary health care center (PHC) in Al Zahrawi will help residents meet those needs.

Dan Foltz, resident engineer with the Corps' Barah Area Office said that the work at the health care center began July 31. The contract calls for the completion of a public health care center that a previous contractor was unable to finish. Another contract was solicited and awarded for the project.

"The cost of this project is about \$504,000," said Foltz. "This particular structure is a 'Type A' facility. The primary health care centers are divided into three types. Al Zahrawi Health Care Center is a Type A facility."

Flotz described Type A as a two-story facility capable of providing medical and dental examination and treatment, laboratory services, vaccinations, and pharmaceutical facilities, space dedicated to x-ray services and public education. The three types of PHCs differ in equipment, medical services and dimensions," he said.



This primary health care center in southern Iraq will provide full medical services to the residents of Al Zahrawi. The project will cost roughly \$504,000 upon completion. [USACE Photo by BJ Weiner]



Dan Foltz, resident engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers southern district conducts an inspection of the construction at the Al Zahrawi PHC. [USACE Photo by BJ Weiner]

Type B is a two-story facility that provides the same services as Type A and adds space for medical training such as lecture halls, instructor offices and a library.

Type C provides space for all Type A functions as well as emergency room services, a labor and delivery department that includes a pre/post delivery ward, a delivery room, a new-born nursery, an ultrasound room, laundry and sterilization, and staff living quarters.

Adel Ayad, project engineer with the Basrah office said that the Al Zahrawi Health Care Center will be equipped with exam rooms, dental rooms, classrooms, and offices for doctors and administrative staffs and manager and meeting room.

Foltz explained that the facility will be furnished with equipment and furniture, as well as fire alarm protection, data communications, telephones, public address systems and emergency electrical generation systems.

“The original contractor had completed approximately 40 percent of the scope of work,” Adel said. “The exiting contractor has completed approximately 50 percent of his contract, and overall work completed on project to date is about 64 percent,” he added.



Workman at the PHC in Al Zahrawi. The center will be of the Type C variety, meaning it will have a full range of services such as emergency and dental care and staff housing. These facilities are often built in rural areas from which it is difficult to access major metropolitan areas. [USACE Photo by BJ Weiner]

Note: Mohammed Aliwi is a Media Relations Officer with the Gulf Region South District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, contact John Connor, Public Affairs Officer at 540-665-2656 or email requests to [CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil](mailto:CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil). For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit [www.grd.usace.army.mil](http://www.grd.usace.army.mil).