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## Completed Water Treatment Plant Benefiting 20,000 Iraqis

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**BASRAH, Iraq—Al-Zierji**, a town located in northern Basrah Province, has fresh drinking water for the first time ever.

James Hodges, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said, "This is one of seven USACE water projects in the province. The \$1.2 million reverse-osmosis plant is providing potable water for more than 20,000 Iraqis. It was completed June 20 and is now fully operational, producing 200 cubic meters per hour." Hodges is the chief construction representative with Gulf Region Division Basrah Area office.

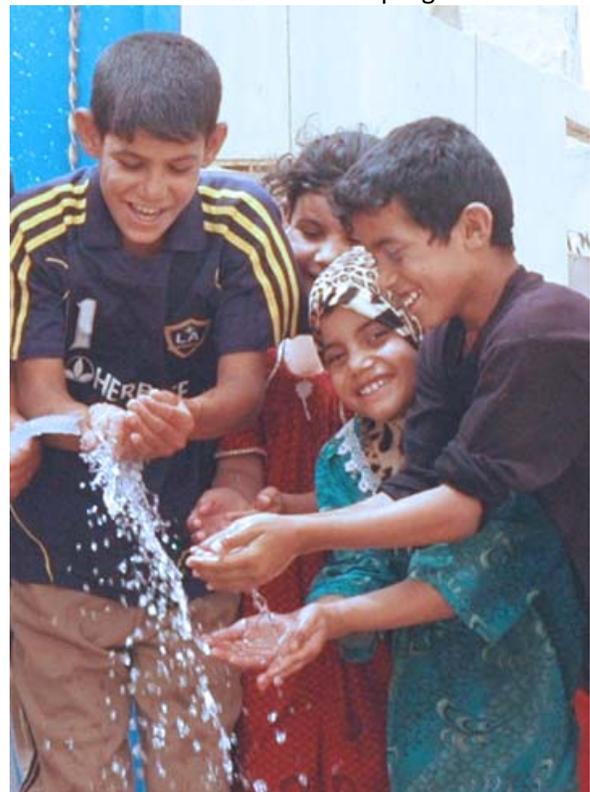
Salah Ali, chief of engineering with the Basrah General Directorate of Water, said he is very pleased with the opening of the new facility, located alongside the Shatt Al-Arab waterway. It is connected to the national power grid and also has its own generator, ensuring 24-hour continuous power. "It means a healthier environment for the entire community," he added.

According to James Mills, area engineer with the Basrah Area Office, "This project and other essential service projects we're overseeing are important because they positively impact Iraqis every day. With proper maintenance, these facilities will enrich Iraqi lives for decades to come."

With a huge smile, Um Mohammed, a mother of six children, said, "We were anxiously awaiting the completion of this project. Now we don't need to use raw water from the river or walk miles to buy bottled water. Clean water, for the first time, is

reaching our homes. All we have to do is turn on the tap."

Ed. - Across Iraq, the Gulf Region Division has completed 203 water treatment projects to date and another 11 are still in progress.



Four Iraqi children enjoy some fresh, drinking water that's now available in their community in northern Basrah Province. Their mother, Um Mohammed, said, "We were anxiously awaiting the completion of this project. Now we don't need to use raw water from the river or walk miles to buy bottled water. Clean water, for the first time, is reaching our homes." (USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani)



The plant operator prepares to operate the Reverse Osmosis unit that is now providing drinking water to 20,000 residents in northern Basrah Province. (USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani)

**Note:** Note: A. Al Bahrani is a Public Affairs Specialist with the Gulf Region South district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, contact public affairs by phone at 540 665-1233, by e-mail to [CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil](mailto:CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil), or visit [www.grd.usace.army.mil](http://www.grd.usace.army.mil)