



## SUCCESS STORY

### Local Health Committee Advocates Repair of Water Treatment Plant in Cholera Prevalent Region of Sulaymaniyah

*“I appreciate the efforts of the Local Health Committee of Kewarash Primary Health Care Clinic who advocated with the Mayor and the Municipality to renovate the main water supply for Rania City. This achievement is a huge success for the MOH and USAID Primary Health Care Project in this region, and sets an example for all government institutions in how to cooperate with and respond to the priority needs addressed by the residents in our communities,” said Dr. Mohammed Rasool, the Director General of Health in Rania District.*



The Water Treatment Plant in Rania District of Sulaymaniyah Province was in a state of disrepair for many years, resulting in a high incidence of cholera and water borne diseases. The Local Health Committee from Kewarash Primary Health Care Clinic recently advocated with the Municipality to repair and upgrade the water system, resulting in provision of clean water supply to more than 64,000 local residents. Photo: USAID / PHCPI

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Decades of wars and sectarian violence in Iraq have caused the deterioration of basic government health services across the country and resulted in a decline in the health status of Iraqi citizens. USAID’s Primary Health Care Project in Iraq (PHCPI) partners with Iraq’s Ministry of Health (MOH) to strengthen its delivery of primary health care services throughout the country, focusing on maternal and child health services for the most vulnerable Iraqis.

Sulaymaniyah province in northern Iraq recently witnessed the positive impact of one of the Local Health Committees (LHC) established through USAID’s PHCPI in 360 Primary Health Care (PHC) clinics and catchment communities throughout Iraq. The LHC advocated with local government officials to fix a key health problem impacting the Rania District, 160km northwest of Sulaymaniyah city. The incidence of waterborne diseases is very high throughout Rania District, with many cases of cholera detected over the past year. One of the main causes of Rania’s waterborne diseases is the run-down and poorly maintained water treatment system that supplies 80% of the district’s water supply, resulting in contamination of the main water system.

The LHCs encourage the link between community needs and primary health care service delivery by raising awareness of key health initiatives and advocating for critical community level health services based on the needs, priorities and requests of the residents. The LHC members from the USAID-supported Kewarash PHC Clinic in Rania District that serves a catchment population of 64,000 residents advocated persistently with the Mayor and Municipality department to prioritize renovation of the main water treatment plant after many years of neglect, thereby solving one of the major issues affecting the health of the local population.

Mr. Mustafa Rawof, who works at the Rania Directorate of Agriculture, said: *“It’s amazing to notice such a dramatic improvement in the main water source in Rania as a result of this LHC advocacy. We have been waiting for this change for more than 30 years, because this district is well known for cholera outbreaks. We expect this achievement will minimize the incidence of waterborne diseases in Rania district.”*