



## SUCCESS STORY

# USAID Declares Success of Primary Health Care Model Clinics Improvement Initiative in Basra

*On Tuesday, September 10th, 2013, USAID/Iraq Mission Director Sarah-Ann Lynch visited the Al-Jibaila Primary Health Care Clinic (PHCC) in Basra to celebrate the success of joint efforts of the Iraq Ministry of Health (MOH) and the USAID Primary Health Care Project in Iraq (PHCPI) in upgrading the clinic to standards of a “Model Clinic” and improving health care services for the community it serves.*

Since 2011, PHCPI has partnered with the MOH to strengthen its delivery of (primary health care) PHC services throughout the country, focusing on improving maternal and child health services for the most vulnerable Iraqis. The project also works with the Government of Iraq (GOI) to improve the standards and quality of 36 “model clinics” to serve as a prototype for further national replication and investment in PHC.

“Al-Jibaila Model Clinic is considered one of the most developed clinics in Basara due to the efforts of the agency [USAID] in training the employees on the new medical devices and equipment in the clinic,” Ms. Lynch reported during an interview with Al-Sumaria News. “The agency is determined to improve the clinic



*Photo: USAID/PHCP*

even more, developing an electronic database for patient records and then training the staff on how to manage the new system.”

Lynch also mentioned that USAID is planning to upgrade two more clinics in Basra, as the model clinics have served as a great example for the GOI to direct its work for future clinics.

One PHCPI achievement in Basra has been to strengthen the referral system between the primary and secondary levels of care. Since 2011, following implementation of a new referral system, the Basra

### November 2013

The USAID Primary Health Care Project in Iraq (PHCPI) is funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under Contract No. AID-267-C-0-11-00004. The project team includes prime recipient, URC, and sub-recipient organizations Management Sciences International and Sallyport Holdings, Inc.

---

Directorate of Health (DOH) is reporting that more people have been visiting the PHC clinics for routine services, instead of going directly to the hospitals. This reduces the workloads of the provincial-level hospitals and allows them to focus on the more specialized cases referred to them. Basra Governorate has 121 PHC clinics, 15 of which have been targeted by the PHCPI project to date.

In an interview with Al-Sumaria, the Health Clinic Section Manager at the Basra DOH, Dr. Abbas Salilah Al-Battat, noted that “more people have started utilizing the [PHC] clinics [in Basra] since they have introduced the referral system. [Our] goal now is to upgrade [all] the clinics in the area so that they are on the same level as Al-Jibaila Clinic.”