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USACE cares for Iraq's children

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BAGHDAD, Iraq – If you review the list of the projects executed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, you will see they are many throughout the country—from the farthest north to the farthest south and from east to the west. No matter whether the project is in a heated area or in a quiet one, the most important thing is the interest of the Iraqi people.

Health of Iraqi children, in the new era, has been taken into consideration by the Gulf Region Division, which has embarked on building and renovating children's hospitals, such as Basrah Children's Hospital with the cost of \$123.3 million, now halfway to completion. This project will provide the only state-of-the-art pediatric speciality hospital in Iraq, and is viewed by the Minister of Health as one of the most important developments within the Iraqi Health Care System.

There is also Ibn Al Baladi maternity and children's hospital in Sadr City. After its renovation, it has helped cut down infant mortality and increase the likelihood of healthier babies and mothers. Another is the Erbil maternity and pediatric hospital that was renovated at a cost \$6.83 million to better serve a city with a population of more than 900,000 people.

GRD has supervised the renovation of even more maternity and children's hospitals like Diwaniyah maternity and children's hospital, Qudus hospital in Al Tamim governorate, Nasiriyah maternity and children's hospital, Al Anbar children's hospital, Al Najaf children's hospital, Haj Jalal maternity and pediatric hospital in Wasit governorate, Al Hilla maternity and children's hospital in Babil, Baquba maternity and children's, Al Khansaa maternity and children's hospital in Mosul.

The latest renovation is Al Waiya hospital. This hospital is being upgraded to meet current international and Iraqi health codes and standards.

The work is phased to complete the 6,000 square meter, 144 bed facility while maintaining full hospital services throughout the duration of the project.

The contractor is coordinating work schedules and interruptions to minimize interference of hospital activities. The \$2.86 million facility renovation work includes the HVAC system,

mechanical system (boilers), electrical, structural, reverse osmosis water purification system, new medical waste incinerator, medical gases center, nurse call system, data communication network, TV system, and fire alarm with fire extinguishing system.

Once the renovation is completed, the facility will provide full medical care for children from a population base of more than 1 million people. The hospital staff includes 41 doctors and 40 nurses. The facility will also be used by the three medical schools in Baghdad for medical internships.

Understanding healthy children are a great asset for Iraq, GRD spares no pains to help Iraqi mothers keep their infants and children healthy and safe by providing better health-care facilities everywhere in Iraq.