



SUCCESS STORY

New hematology analyzer helps Primary Health Clinic in Maysan support early detection of life-threatening blood-related illnesses

Ms. Zainab Hamza, a 24 year old , was diagnosed with leukemia (blood cancer) after her blood sample was tested using the new hematology analyzer at the Primary Health Care Model Clinic in Maysan province. Photo: USAID PHCPI



Zainab's father Mr. Hamza Khadum spoke with Dr. Ammar Khalid: "The doctors at the hospital told me that if my daughter's cancer had not been detected early at this PHC Clinic, she may not live long. Thank you for helping to save my daughter's life!" Photo: USAID PHCPI

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In a country where the maternal and infant mortality rates are more than twice the 2015 Millenium Development Goal set for Iraq, primary health care clinics are often the first line of health care that Iraqi families rely on to support their health needs.

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, with specific focus on maternal and child health services and supporting the Government of Iraq to improve the standards and quality of 36 "model" clinics to serve as a prototype for replication by the MoH.

USAID/PHCPI recently supplied urgently needed laboratory equipment to the Al Ameer PHC Model Clinic in Maysan province which serves a population of 31,354 and sees roughly 350 patients per day. The new hematology analyzer, not previously available at the PHC clinic laboratory, enables laboratory staff to test and analyze blood results to help doctors make quicker and more definitive diagnoses.

Ms. Zainab Hamza, a 24 year old female, came to the Al Ameer PHC clinic complaining of fever, fatigue, and weight loss. After she was examined by Dr. Ammar Khalid, he sent her immediately to the lab to have her blood tested using the hematology analyzer as he suspected a life-threatening blood disease. Her blood results indicated that she has leukemia, a form of blood cancer. Following her diagnosis, Dr. Ammar sent Zainab immediately to the nearest MoH cancer hospital in Amara for treatment. Zainab's father returned to the PHC clinic to thank Dr. Ammar and the clinic for saving his daughter's life. "This new lab equipment did a great favor to this young woman as it will do to so many other people," said Dr. Ammar.