



SUCCESS STORY

New Lab Equipment Improves Health Services for Vulnerable Citizens at Primary Health Care Model Clinic in Wasit

“Many thanks to USAID and PHCPI” said 16 year old Mays Mohammed. “With their support of lab equipment to the Primary Health Care Clinic, I am feeling more confident about being able to test and control my rare blood disease without burdening my family”.

Decades of wars, embargos and sectarian violence in Iraq have caused the deterioration of basic government health services across the country and caused a decline in the health status of Iraqi citizens. USAID’s Primary Health Care Project (PHCP) partners with Iraq’s Ministry of Health (MOH) to strengthen its delivery of primary health care services throughout the country, focusing on mother and child health services for the most vulnerable Iraqis. The project also works with the Government of Iraq (GOI) to improve the standard and quality of 36 “model” clinics to serve as a prototype for further national replication.

Ms. Mays Mohammed, a 16 year old Iraqi girl has suffered from thalassemia since her early childhood, a disease which causes the destruction of red blood cells resulting in anemia and complications such as bone deformities and heart related illnesses. Mays lives near the Al-Hawraa Primary Health Care Model Clinic supported by the USAID PHCP in Kut, Wasit



The Hematology Analyzer was one of the laboratory equipment items supplied by USAID’s PHCP to 36 model clinics in Iraq. *Photo: USAID/PHCP*



Lab staff at Al-Hawraa Primary Health Care Clinic draw a blood sample from Mays Mohammed for testing through the new hematology analyzer at the Clinic. *Photo: USAID/PHCP*

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.

governorate. Unfortunately, due lack of laboratory testing equipment available at the PHC Clinic, Mays and her parents had to travel 40km to reach the nearest hospital in order to regularly check her blood and health status which overburdened the family with financial problems in addition to her already challenging health condition.

In October 2013, Mays was informed by a member of the Local Health Committee about the new Hematology Analyzer lab equipment provided to Al-Hawraa PHC Clinic through USAID's PHCP. The Local Health Committees were established by PHCPI to help improve health awareness among the local communities. "I didn't believe it" said Mays when she heard that she no longer has to travel 40km and spend money just to have her regular blood tests. "With this new lab testing equipment at the local clinic, I will be able to go by myself to the clinic to monitor my rare health condition"

This provision of lab equipment to 36 PHC clinics throughout Iraq is one of the steps USAID's PHCP has taken to help the MOH establish improved standards and quality of care at PHC "Model Clinics" that can be replicated by the MOH in hundreds of other PHC clinics across Iraq.