



Press release
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RUMAILA SUPPORTS LOCAL COMMUNITIES WITH WATER, TRAINING AND HEALTH INITIATIVES

- New water pumping station and pipelines supply piped water to over 7,000 community members.
- 400 women trained at Training Centre for Women which was established by ROO in 2015
- New clinic built to provide healthcare to 10,000 community members
- All-weather football pitches built for youth of local communities
- All projects funded by the Rumaila Operating Organisation's Social Welfare Fund

Basra, Iraq, 27 March 2017: The Rumaila Social Welfare Fund (SWF) has delivered numerous projects in 2016 to benefit local communities that live close to the Rumaila oilfield. These projects include: piping water to over 7,000 people; training women in new skills at the dedicated community centre (400 to date); opening the new Al-Khora Community Health Clinic and building two all-weather football pitches.

The Rumaila Social Welfare Fund is dedicated to addressing the most pressing needs of residents living in and around Rumaila, and is administered by the Rumaila Operating Organisation (ROO), which manages the oilfield. All projects are initiated by working closely with the Rumaila Community Committee, which comprises Sheikhs and representatives from SOC, ROO, the Basra Provincial Council, the Governor Office and the local Council. Several projects have been delivered to date, with additional work planned for the future.

Rumaila General Manager, Ariel Flores, said: "Rumaila plays a vital part in the lives of so many people in the region, providing jobs and contracts with local firms, as well as considerable revenue to Iraq. We recognise we have a role to support the communities where we operate. Over the past year, ROO has worked with our friends in the local communities to understand the issues that concern them, and to help in the best way we can."

Delivering water to the village of Al Khora entailed working with the Directorate of Water to construct a new water pumping station at the Al-Badaa canal and a 2.5km pipeline to feed the existing water treatment plant. Major upgrades were then conducted to increase the capacity and efficiency of the water treatment plant alongside the installation of a new water distribution pipe network within the community.

The village now enjoys cleaner piped water, a vast improvement on the highly unsuitable saline water from one of the Shat Al-Arab canals. In response to this initiative, the Rumaila Community Committee issued a statement saying: “Our community has suffered for many years from a lack of quality water and this will undoubtedly boost our standards of living and health. On behalf of all residents, we thank ROO for their dedication to see this project through.”

The Al-Khora Community Centre for Women, which was established in 2015 by the Rumaila SWF, was refurbished and expanded in 2016 to include a kindergarten, which currently offers childcare to over 70 pre-school aged children and extra tuition classes to 13 children, ensuring that women can attend classes safe in the knowledge that their children are well looked-after. To date, over 400 local women have received training in a range of trade-specific courses such as sewing, design, hairdressing, beauty, and craftworks, as well as lessons in literacy, computer usage, and human rights. The handicrafts produced by the women are now sold in the local bazaar and at a shop located inside the oilfield.

The Community Centre for Women Director remarked: “We have many examples of successful case studies of people we have helped to develop new skills. One example was a trainee who learnt to sew and graduated quickly from the first class to the second, working very hard by sewing beautiful clothes and toys. The centre has now decided to adopt her brilliant ideas and we have hired her as a trainer. This centre is making a real difference to the lives of people like this woman.”

Other Rumaila Social Welfare Fund projects in 2016 include the new Al Khora Community Clinic which provides healthcare to a wider community of around 10,000 people and opened in September and has already seen an average of 186 visits per week. A health outreach initiative was also launched to visit residents in their homes as required. This scheme sits alongside the Rumaila Women’s Health Volunteer programme, which typically sees around 400 home visits a month conducted by a network of 20 volunteers to educate families about health issues.

In addition, the Rumaila and Al Sikak villages in North Rumaila have benefited from various infrastructure projects, such as upgrading schools, roads, parks as well as a regular refuse collection service. Two state-of-the-art football pitches and sporting facilities have also been constructed to serve the communities, with coaching sessions provided by professional football coach, Sadiq Alwohali, founder of Football for Change Iraq, with the hope of training the next generation of Iraqi football players.

Ali Shadad, Basra Provincial Council Member and Head of the Oil & Gas Committee, added: “Today,

we are seeing that the collective work between SOC, ROO, local authorities and the Rumaila Community Committee is delivering great benefits to the residents of these communities. I would like to thank all those who were involved and worked hard to make sure these projects became a reality.”

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Note to editors:

- Rumaila is a South Oil Company (SOC) oilfield and one of the largest producing oilfields in the world.
- The Rumaila Operating Organisation (ROO) is the operator of the Rumaila oilfield, which is a joint venture formed in January 2010 between SOC, BP, PetroChina and the State Oil Marketing Organization (SOMO)
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