



Press Release

14 August 2016

NEW HEALTH CENTRE OPENS FOR AL KHORA VILLAGE

- Centre will serve up to 7,000 people
- The project was funded by the Rumaila Operating Organisation
- Services include preventative healthcare, therapeutic services and health education

Basra, Iraq, 14 August: The community at Al Khora is set to benefit from a brand new health centre, which was officially opened today. The building and equipping of the centre was funded by the Rumaila Social Welfare Fund – a contributory fund set up by the Minister of Oil in 2013.

The new centre provides a comprehensive range of medical services to the local communities and is staffed by Iraqi healthcare workers sourced by the Directorate of Health. The centre has a potential catchment area of up to 7,000 people and services offered include preventative healthcare (such as mother and child vaccinations and school health provision); therapeutic services (such as treatment of acute respiratory infection and treatment of non-communicable diseases); and general health education for the population.

The centre is part of the commitment made by ROO and the Rumaila Community Committee to help improve the quality of community amenities to the residents of Al Khora. It follows the building of a 4-km road in 2015 and ongoing work to provide water piped to Al Khora.

Work on the project began with a feasibility study in the Spring of 2015, with construction beginning in October. The Directorate of Health was closely involved in the process, to ensure that the correct medical equipment was specified and that the centre met all requirements prior to opening. Community leaders and sheikhs helped in the identification and transfer of ownership of a suitable site; also consulted at various stages during the process by the supervisory Rumaila Community Committee, which comprises representatives of the Basra local government – including both the Provincial Council and the Governor Office – SOC, sheikhs and members of the local Council.

Construction was carried out by a local contractor, employing up to 30 local labourers and tradesmen using local resources, including general building supplies and heavy plant equipment, where possible. The project was delivered on time, despite challenges caused by heavy rain, which delayed progress at times. Twenty Women's Health Volunteers were recruited and trained as part of the project, raising awareness of the centre and providing healthcare education during several hundred door-to-door visits.

Mr. Bassim Abdul Kareem, Chairman of the ROO Joint Management Committee, commented: "We are delighted that the Rumaila Social Welfare Fund has been able to deliver this project which will provide such benefit to the people living near to our oilfield."

The Rumaila General Manager from BP, Ariel Flores, commented: “This is another step in our ongoing support programme for local communities. We are proud to have delivered the new medical centre to benefit local people, following on from previous investments in the area.”

Director General of Basra Directorate of Health, Dr. Ryadh Abdul Ameer, said: “This health centre was built and equipped according to Ministry of Health standards and will provide preventative healthcare and therapeutic services to local people who are in desperate need for them. It will provide a real boost by improving the overall health of the local residents of Al Khora community. I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to all those who were involved in accomplishing this great achievement; specifically the Rumaila Operating Organization and the Rumaila Community Committee.”

The Rumaila Community Committee issued a statement saying: “The opening of this new medical centre is a positive step towards improving health and living standards in the area. On behalf of everybody within the community, we thank all members of the Community Committee, SOC, ROO and all the partners for making this happen.”

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Note to editors:

- Rumaila is a South Oil Company (SOC) oilfield. It is the largest producing field in Iraq and one of the top producing fields in the world
- The Rumaila Operating Organisation (ROO), which is a joint venture formed in June 2010 between SOC, BP, PetroChina and the State Oil Marketing Organization (SOMO), is the operator of the Rumaila oilfield
- Since 2010, oil production from Rumaila has risen by over a third (2015 measured production average: 1.31 million barrels per day). Over 2.8 billion barrels have been produced in the period, generating more than \$200 billion dollars for the State. This has been achieved by training the largely Iraqi workforce, the introduction of new technologies and renovating the field’s facilities
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