

## Alamal medical clinics

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The health sector in Iraq due to long years of wars and negligence suffered from shortage of medicines and medical supplies,

Which required projects to relieve the people suffering, especially women and children in remote country areas, and providing health services to them. This need mobilized civil society and international organizations to help to relieve the people's needs.

Since November 2008, Iraqi Alamal Association (IAA) with cooperation of UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (OCHA), a project for medical clinics to help into relieving the health conditions in Iraq.

Medical clinics took place in five vulnerable sites in five different provinces, where in each site resides beneficiaries of around 5000 families, targeted areas range from poor slums in the outskirts of cities to IDP camps. The clinics started on November 2008, in **Kirkuk, Failak in Debas sector, Najaf, AL-Dasm in Al-heria district, Kerbala, Al Ghadeer district, Baghdad, Yousifiya district, Tikrit, Samra village in Alalam**

Beneficiaries were in dire need of such intervention as health services are very poor and inadequate especially for mothers who lack the information on preventive disease. Moreover, the clinic conducted awareness campaigns and checked the vaccine registry in the camps. The project provides first health care to around 25,000 vulnerable families for 3 months, focusing on women and children. Conduct schools health awareness campaign one session/3hrs/per wk for 2 schools in each site, beside medical check for students. Conduct women health awareness campaigns in different needed subjects. The frequency of this process will be 3 to 5 times in each site per month.

The clinics cooperated in their areas with **local city councils** and related Health, human rights and law enforcement departments, building positive accountability and true partnership between civil society and local governments giving credibility of both to share/serve needs of the community.

Each clinic works all week and receives more than 100 patients daily. During November 2008, the clinic provides services to 8988 patients, 3802 of them were women, 3400 child, 170 pregnant women received medical services in the clinic and health awareness, 52 nursing mothers are visiting the clinics to get child care information, along with 50 families of new mothers.

The clinic provided in the 1st month of its work, 1648 medical laboratory tests. The clinic provided health awareness services in different subjects like, adapted medical education: [hygienic](#), [Breast feeding](#), [using Oral Re-hydration therapy \(Ort\)](#), [the mother noticing baby signs of acute diarrhea](#), [the complications that](#)

might happens in pregnancy, risks of giving birth in houses by non-expert midwives, the importance of vaccination , distributed a folder on health awareness on cholera ,and breast cancer ,the clinic had posters advertising on cholera precaution ,hygienic awareness ,child nutrition with pictures

The clinics still working till this day and providing it services to wide range of people ,some location received patients coming from 170 kilos away , the local community were very pleased for most of them has lives in areas that lack primary medical services