



# UNOPS

Operational excellence for results that matter

## 55.000 Iraqis provided with clean drinking water

**In cooperation with the local water authorities, UNOPS worked to reduce contamination and provide a long-term solution to the water needs in three towns in northern Iraq**

Between 2007 and 2009, UNOPS improved the quality of water and increased its supply to over 55.000 inhabitants in the northern Iraqi towns of Takiya, Sidakan and Rawanduz (Sulaymanieh and Erbil Governorates). The project was funded by the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund.

The water networks of the towns dated back to 1970 and 1980 and had received little maintenance during the past two decades. The influx of IDPs from the south to the relatively safe north in the years after 2003 also led to an increase of the inhabitants of the towns, adding stress on the already disintegrating water networks. Urgent rehabilitation and expansion of the three water distribution systems was therefore needed.



“The water used to be contaminated due to damaged old pipes. People would get diarrhoea and vomit from drinking it”, said Mr. Tawfiq Rafiq Hamad, Director of the Rawanduz Water Directorate.



The UNOPS projects, implemented in close cooperation with the local offices of the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works and the Directorate of Water and Sanitation, were therefore designed to address both immediate and future water needs of the towns.

New materials were introduced to reduce maintenance costs for the life of the new pipe systems and 20 staff of the relevant water authorities were provided with comprehensive purpose based training.

“Our aim was to enable them to improve the efficient operation and maintenance of the systems also after the withdrawal of UN support” says UNOPS Iraq Director, Mr. Gerhard Pansegrouw.

In the three towns, 44 km of existing water networks were rehabilitated and 16 km of new pipeline was laid to meet the increased needs. New service reservoirs were constructed in all locations and to mitigate the effects of drought, deeper wells were drilled to ensure access to more secure levels of water.

“Not only are we now better able to control distribution and meet demands”, says Mr. Rafiq Hamad, “but we have observed an immediate reduction in diseases caused by water contamination”.

In total, over 240 construction workers received short-term employment during the process and the networks are now operating as intended. The 55.000 inhabitants of the three towns are now benefitting from a continuous supply of safe drinking water.

