IMPROVING RURAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE IN IRAQ
A PARTNERSHIP WITH SOUTH KOREA, SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRALIA

THE PROBLEM
Over the last three decades Iraq’s health infrastructure has been ravished especially in rural and remote areas of the country. These areas, in which about half a million people reside, have not had adequate access to basic health services. The longer-term impact of which is a rise in chronic and acute complexities. The lack of basic infrastructure is confounded by not having a viable strategy to access rural areas for adequate medical service delivery and surveying of population health data.

THE SOLUTION
We were approached by the Provincial Government in Iraq to manage and deliver a project with an aim to improve the standard of health in rural Iraq and collect valuable population health data to further improve future health services. Our approach was to first understand the context by conducting a needs assessment of the project and making a series of field visits in the region. This informed an overall strategy which involved the following:

1. Delivery and use of medical mobile clinics in rural Iraq
2. Formation of a multidisciplinary committee to oversee the project
3. Secure public support and funding from international donors and partners
4. Develop and train researchers and employees to deliver rural health services

PROJECT PROFILE
Budget: $2.6M (AUD)
Length: 12 months
Staff Size: 400 people
Collaboration Partners: 4 countries

THE RESULTS
As a result, these outcomes were achieved:
1. Secured donations of mobile clinics from South Korean Government
2. Partnered with International Committee of the Red Cross in Switzerland
3. Thousands of people in rural villages were treated
4. Approximately 100 researchers were specially trained on delivery of health services in rural regions of the country
5. Attracted a volunteer force of 300 medical and dental students to collate critical medical data

"For all the massive destruction I saw...I saw a lot of reconstruction already take place, and that’s a testimony to the resilience of the Iraqi people"
Peter Maurer - President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (Project Partner)