1. Review of Action Points from 12th March meeting

2. Strategic & Thematic Updates:
   a. Strategic Update from Ninewa / KR-I PWGs
   b. Strategic Update from C/S PWGs
   c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster
   d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster
   e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster
   f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster

3. AOB
   - Presentation by REACH of the report ‘Civil Documentation and HLP Needs in Iraq’

   1. Review of Action Points from 12.03.20 meeting

   | NPC to share the guidance note on the issue of security clearance and procedures for readmission to IDPs camps with interested organizations in support of their own advocacy efforts. | Done |
   | NPC to share the report of the ICCG mission to AK through the SAD PWG once it has been approved by the HCT. | Done |

The minutes were adopted without amendments.

2a. Strategic Update from KRI & Ninewa PWG

Cross-cutting issues

• Access has improved in Northern Iraq, with organizations mentioning that they obtained authorization from governmental officials to exceptionally provide assistance even during the curfew period. However, overall, access to critical places remains a challenge, particularly some of the IDP camps under Erbil control.

• Loss of livelihood impacting protection environment: Protection partners continue to highlight the protection consequences of the significant loss of employment and livelihood opportunities across the four governorates. This is evidenced in the last DRC study, as well as the calls received by the Iraq Information Centre. Ninewa and the three KRI governorates are among the top four governorates receiving calls (68%), with about 60% of those calls linked to loss of employment opportunities or affected livelihood. In Ninewa, IDPs and Returnees equally raised the issue, while in KRI callers are mainly IDPs (there are very limited return areas under KRI control).

• Food security: Partners in Dohuk, Erbil and Ninewa have reported delays in food distribution and, particularly in camps, difficulties for beneficiaries to cash out cash assistance related to top up food package. In addition, concerns were also raised about raise in Food prices in camps. There are concerns that people (limited in number) who were previously excluded from WFP assistance as part of the targeting exercise could be at risk as their livelihood opportunities are impacted. In Sulaymaniyah, reports received indicate that humanitarian actors have already adapted distribution modalities in some camps. According to the Food Security Cluster, in addition to close monitoring of market availability and movement restrictions for the camp populations, the cash assistance is still functioning but at a slower pace than usual. Partners are also procuring in-kind baskets as a backup and a short term response for the time being in case access issues for FSPs and beneficiaries are not resolved. The targeting exercise has been put on hold at the moment, considering the changes happening in the livelihood of the excluded population, we are going through different scenarios to ensure that those households’ remain food secure.

• Remote implementation: Challenges and opportunities: While partners have demonstrated great ability to adapt programmes to respond in this context, including by use of social media and phone activities, challenges remain on ensuring that new beneficiaries are identified and that programmes are not necessarily benefiting already enrolled beneficiaries. Organizations are working with community representatives, some good practices have included provision of non-individualized information about specific services and/or locations. Protection partners have also noted that frontline staff could increasingly be in need of support themselves. Organizations have, however, stepped up on internal duty of care activities.
• Other health concerns in camps (not COVID-19): IDPs in camps in Ninewa and Erbil have raised concerns about the lack of medicine available in the camp impacting particularly people living with chronic diseases.

Ninewa-specific
• Rotation security forces, including IDPs, raising concerns about risks of COVID-19 transmission among the Iraqi population, particularly in camps, if no adequate preventive measures are in place. In the past weeks, protection and CCCM partners, as well as IDPs themselves, have raised serious concerns about the rotation of security personnel responsible for the security of IDP camps, as well as about the return to camps of IDPs resident in the camps working for the security forces, after the conclusion of their duties in other districts and/or governorates across Iraq. On 3 April, the Iraqi Ministry of Defense announced a general rotation ordering the movement of officials to military bases across Iraq. More than 2,000 military personnel were requested to move back to their bases in Ninewa alone, with the likelihood of an equivalent or higher number of officials returning to their homes across Iraq. In Ninewa, rotation and correlated intra- and inter-governorate movements have resulted in several protection incidents, including harassment of humanitarian staff. In at least two occasions in the past three weeks, CCCM actors operating in Hammam Al Alil (HAA), Salamiyah and Jeddah camps have reported that IDPs recently returning from deployment in the Southern governorates of Iraq displayed symptoms of COVID-19, were taken to the designated hospital in Mosul city and subsequently tested negative for the virus. Above all, humanitarian actors and IDPs fear that frequent rotation without mandatory quarantine measures in place - as recommended by Iraqi Ministry of Health, WHO and the Health Cluster - can severely heighten the risk of COVID-19 transmission among camp populations. Similar concerns have been raised vis-à-vis IDPs who were previously in other locations for livelihood and education opportunities and are now returning to IDP camps due to imposition of lockdowns, as well as the loss or suspension of livelihood and education activities.
  • Despite the announcement of the rotation on 3 April, on the same weekend, the ISF managing the Al-Akrab checkpoint - south of Mosul city - blocked the entry to the city to a large number of returning security personnel. This coincided with a complete lockdown for all individuals (including security personnel) in the entire governorate from 5 to 11 April imposed by the Ninewa Crisis Cell as a containment measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As a result, a large number of individuals were stranded at checkpoints. Humanitarian actors have support by installing Rub Halls in the Al-Akrab junction checkpoint (Hammam Al All district) and by providing some NFIs for quarantine arrangements. In addition, camps across Ninewa are also working to establish quarantine locations for those returning to the sites.
  • Prime Minister’s Directive on release of certain detainees to lessen overcrowding in sites to mitigate transmission of COVID-19: In Ninewa, according to initial figures provided by authorities, as of 12 April, over 100 people were released based on art. 27 of Juvenile law or for not having sufficient evidence against them, and another 40 in conditional release following earned gaittance. Other releases are expected.
  • Screening in camps: Humanitarian actors have received indications of additional screenings in Ninewa camps, with Security Forces requiring IDPs individual data. Advocacy at the local level continue, including on data protection and humanitarian principles that humanitarian actors have to abide to. On a separate endeavor, in Salamiyah one Mukhtar is organizing the return of some families back to Baaj. According to initial reports, return movements are voluntary. The initiative, which was reportedly not initially coordinated with MoMD or other authorities also include a security screening prior to the departure of those families. Important to note, however, that this differs from the screening activities. Questions have been raised about the timing of the relocation. Information received at the time of the meeting was that they will only materialize after the lifting of the curfew. Humanitarian actors are following up on the matter and additional briefing can be provided in the next NPC meeting.

2b. Strategic Update from Central-South PWG

• Prime Minister’s Directive on Detainees issued on 5 April: Due to concerns regarding possible transmission of COVID-19 among detainees in overcrowded detention centres, the Government of Iraq is allowing release of certain detainees based on reason for detention and/or which crime they have been charged with (if any). Detainees who have been officially indicted for terrorism-based charges will not be released. However, if it is unclear how the Directive will impact those being held without charge, specifically IDPs with a perceived affiliation. The Directive is being implemented in Anbar, Baghdad and Diyala Governorates, with legal partners in these areas following up.

Anbar:
• Security and military actors: Al-Soqor checkpoint has been closed to PMF by the Anbar Operations Command due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is expected that PMF have access to alternate routes into the governorate, bypassing mandatory temperature checks.
• In HTC camp, Anbar Operations Command personnel are reportedly patrolling the main thoroughfares inside of camp, including the market. Individual household-level visits have not been reported.
• On 5 April, the Mayor of Al-Qa‘im city was verbally harassed by PMF actors. Security sources in Al-Qa‘im confirmed the incident resulted from the mayor closing all non-essential businesses in accordance with national recommendations to combat COVID-19, which PMF actors disagreed with. The next rotation of security actors is expected to take place on 16 April.
• MoMD and WFP have provided food assistance to IDPs in AAF and HTC, but IDPs in informal settlements, including Kilo 7, Kilo 18 and Bzebiz remain in need of food assistance. MoMD last provided food assistance to Kilo 7 and Kilo 18 in 2018 and last provided assistance to Bzebiz in 2019. On 13 April, MoMD began food distribution in Bzebiz targeting IDPs in Al-Abyadh, Sector 28 and Secor Ali Sulaiman. However, MoMD is targeting IDPs who hold a QI card, excluding numbers of HHs. Some HHs have attempted to attach themselves under false pretenses to a family or friend’s QI card, which may result in the cancellation of the original card by MoMD.
• Only one ambulance is available inside of AAF camp and is only used for very urgent cases. There is no ambulance inside of HTC. If an ambulance is needed in HTC, camp management must call the health authorities to receive one, but only for very urgent cases.

Baghdad:
• 144 HHs residing in Al Shams informal site in Abu Ghraib continue to face potential eviction at the end of May due to proposed construction of a building on the same site. Meetings with authorities have been cancelled over March and April due to COVID-19, but the intentions of the authorities remain unknown, including whether IDPs in Al Shams will be allowed to move to Al-Ahel IDP camp, which is located in the same district. Partners report harassment of IDPs in Al Shams has decreased over this period. The issue will be discussed at the next Baghdad General Coordination meeting on 20th April.

Diyala:
• Partners report that no security/military actors rotate in and outside of Diyala during change of shifts.
• MoMD in Diyala starting to distribute NFI and Hygiene Kit for 85 IDPs families in Bahriz sub-district/Baqubah district.
• The Diyala PWG is working with various location organisations to support the distribution of masks and food assistance in Saad camp. Some organisations have begun to train and provide a meagre income to small numbers of women in producing homemade masks for distribution.
• The Governor of Diyala rejected large-scale curfew exemptions for humanitarian actors. Instead, partners may request exemptions for access 48 hours in advance of planned activities.

Kirkuk:
• 29 IDPs residing in Laylan 1 camp are reportedly also members of various military forces, including the ISF and PMF, across several governorates such as Erbil, Diyala and Kirkuk. It is unclear as to whether these individuals are currently moving back and forth between Laylan 1 camp and their respective duty stations.

Salah al-Din:
• On 9 April, a member of the ISF who recently returned to Balad district tested positive for COVID-19; there is no indication he had contact with the PMF factions and local police securing Al Ishaqi camp and Balad Train station. There is also no indication the individual had contact with IDPs. SAD health authorities took measures to quarantine all those who have been in contact with the person. Governor of SAD imposed a 48 hour lockdown of the governorate from 10 to 12 April.
• At the Dujail checkpoint, in Dujail district in SAD, partners reported families who had been stuck in Baghdad due to COVID-19 related movement restrictions entered the governorate using their own vehicles. Consequently, it is assumed that a few thousand persons - the majority of whom were assumed to be security and military actors - entered Salah al-Din governorate over a three-day period before 7 April. This occurred during rotation of security and military actors.
• WFP has officially changed transfer modality for to e-voucher for IDPs in Al Karama.
• Balad Train Station and Al Ishaqi camp are in need of health care, food and livelihoods assistance. Agricultural workers in both sites have lost access to income, while decreased services from local health authorities has led to widespread scabies. Local organisations are attempting to provide additional assistance, but high needs remain.
• Return of IDPs to south of Yathrib and to different villages in Touz (Souleyman Bej center, Ghammaz, Habash, Khasa Darli, Hafriya, Maftool, al-Nabi, Osaj, al-Borida, Sarha and al-Bohishma). These returns are expected to have occurred before full lockdown of the governorate at the end of March. However, humanitarian assistance has not been possible due to access issues.
• OCHA and Salah al-Din authorities came to an agreement to allow for certain humanitarian actors to obtain exemptions to the governorate curfew between 8 AM and 2 PM. Some partners have reported issues at checkpoints, but others have been able to their destinations without issue.

2c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster
• GBV partners adopted remote service provision during the current COVID-19 crisis. Accordingly, GBV SC developed guidance documents and disseminated them to support the provision of GBV services during the crisis:
  o Guidance Note on GBV Service Provision during the Time of COVID-19: highlights the situation updates, the impact of COVID-19 on GBV in Iraq, and the recommendations to be considered in order to prevent/mitigate the GBV risks during the COVID-19 crisis.
  o Guidance Note for remote case management during the time of COVID-19: in English, Arabic and Kurdish.
  o GBV Referral Pathway Guides & Help Desks: established at the governorate level to provide remote guidance and support on the referral mechanisms to non-GBV actors when there is no or limited access. The guide includes detailed referral steps, contacts of the GBV WG and a female case manager who may support referrals.
  o Consolidated messages on GBV and MHPSS (in collaboration with WHO) for partners to use in their dissemination campaigns on social media, through SMS, TV, radio and with the dignity kits. The messages have been disseminated in English and Arabic.
• During the GBV SC meeting of 8th April, GBV partners noted an increase in the domestic violence incidents due to stress related to COVID 19 like such as curfew/lockdown. The GBV SC also received 9 GBV cases referred from the IIC in March mostly domestic violence incidents, compared to 3 cases in Feb.
• The GBVIMS recorded a decrease in the number of reported incidents in March by 48% compared to February and 42% compared to January due to the challenges experienced by the data gathering organizations during the COVID-19.
• The decrease in the number of reported incidents does not imply a decrease in GBV incidents. In March (and moving forward), GBV case management services were mostly provided remotely, impacting the GBVIMS reporting. This is due to the limitation of the GBVIMS, which only allows for incidents to be recorded on the database when the survivors are present in person when reporting incidents, which is not the case when services are provided remotely. There are challenges experienced by the data gathering organizations during the COVID-19 crisis such as curfew/lockdown, and closure of some women centers. In response, the GBV SC is working with partners to disseminate information about remote GBV reporting mechanisms.
• The GBV SC is in the process of developing a rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on GBV and collect the data where feasible for better analysis of the impact.

2d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster
• COVID 19 preparedness / response plan and guidelines. There are 4 guidelines/ kits shared with partners in relation to COVID 19, all in Arabic and English
  o Case Management Guidance for disease outbreak
  o Alternative Care Guidance note for unaccompanied children in COVID 19
  o Awareness Raising Materials and delivery modality guidance
  o Family based PSS kits for age under 6, age between 6-13 (circulated, print ready link forthcoming)
• Regarding alternative care for unaccompanied children, referral pathways for camps and hospitals are almost complete and orientation in Arabic language was attended by 90 participants. There were two orientations in Arabic language on awareness raising materials and its delivery modality as well as family-based PSS kits. Approximately 300 participants joined in the orientation.
• Resuming Governorate level CPWG meetings. Governorate level CPWG meetings will resume in April using online platform. Each WG will be sharing 3W/4W analysis to analyze gaps and challenges, as well as receiving feedback on COVID 19 related guidance notes.
• Alert for increased domestic violence for children. From COVID 19 affected countries, there are alarming trends of increased domestic violence under movement restrictions. CP sub-cluster remains alert for such trend and upcoming remote protection monitoring tool/ IIC call trend analysis may provide additional evidence.

2e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster

• Mine action field operation suspension. Most of the mine action operations were halted since mid- March due to access issues related to COVID 19 precautionary measures. At the end of March, the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) directed actors not to conduct any operations until the curfew is lifted

• Integration of COVID-19 in Explosive Ordnance Risk Education. The Director General of the DMA is open to integrate COVID-19 awareness messages in the risk education however this require DMA’s review and approval.

• Diyala’s Area with no return. In Diyala, the ICGG meeting decided to prepare a list of areas that witnessed no return. MA is associated with this initiative. HI is a key mine action actor in Diyala and will participate in this working group in collaboration with IOM, UNHCR and the Return Working Group.

• Environment Working Group. Given the growing interest of international agencies and national authorities around the world in environmental matters, Mine Action Sub-Cluster will be participating in a newly established working group on environmental issues to mainstream environment in mine action and humanitarian disarmament. The group will be composed of international NGOs, commercial companies and national mine action authorities and will have its first meeting on 21 April 2020.

2f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster

• Due to the second amendment of the basic law on compensation (Law 20 of 2009), the HLP Sub-cluster has released the compensation guidelines based on the mentioned new amendments of the law (Law 2 of 2020). The purpose of the guidelines is to inform HLP and non-HLP actors about the changes in the law. Procedures have been amended in relation to the filing of compensation claims, the legal deadlines for appealing against the first decision, how the compensation committees and sub-committees are structured and their competences. The law also includes the obligations of the Ministry of Finance for prioritizing approved cases for the payments-disbursement to beneficiaries as well as budget allocation for compensation for each governorate. In addition, the guidelines contain annexes that aim to support HLP and non-HLP partners in their work, such as shelter and mine action actors.

• The HLP Sub-cluster has released the HLP COVID-19 Response Guidance Note for HLP actors. The guidance note aims: i) to guide HLP actors in Iraq on the safe delivery of a limited range of critical HLP activities in the wake of the outbreak; ii) emphasize how HLP issues and activities are affected during the outbreak; iii) and provide recommendations and advices on which activities should be prioritized by HLP actors during the COVID-19 response. The prioritized activities are in line with the NPC-HLP strategy for the COVID-19 response.

• In response to a request by the Iraqi Information Center (IIC), the HLP Sub-cluster has prepared a brochure on compensation which contain key information related to property compensation. The brochure, is called “Key Messages/Kew Questions and Answers on Property Compensation”. This brochure aims to provide basic information for IIC to inform IDPs/returnees and beneficiaries about the compensation schemes in Iraq, without going into the details of legal procedures.

• COVID-19 outbreak is already impacting families and HH in regard to housing and the affordability of rented accommodation. According to a survey conducted by an HLP partner, 64% of respondents who live in rented accommodation indicated that they would not be able to pay their rent in the next three months. In addition, 76% of those who weren’t able to pay rent indicated that they did not know what to do about negotiating this situation and 42% expected to be evicted. To respond to these increased needs HLP partners, such as NRC and Mercy Hands, and other partners across the country, are planning to support affected communities through various activities.

2h. Updates from NPC


• Global HRP (GHRP) COVID-19. The GHRP was issued on 25 March 2020 and covers the period from April to December 2020. The total appeal is 2 billion USD. The GHRP is an aggregation of plans made by individual agencies that outline their humanitarian work in response to COVID-19. It includes 3 strategic priorities: health, socioeconomic /livelihoods and protection. For protection, the two main components are 1) to advocate for fulfillment of rights and access service for vulnerable groups and 2) to address issues of violence, discrimination and marginalization that may arise as a result of COVID-19. The GHRP has been allocated to UN agencies. However, implementation will be coordinated through the cluster system wherever it is already in place and in partnership with INGOs/NNGOs.
• **WHO country-level Plan (SPRP in Iraq).** The cost of the SRPS is aggregated in a global WHO plan. At the country level in Iraq the appeal is about USD 17M although the SRPS is not explicitly costed.

• **Iraq Emergency Response Plan COVID-19.** This plan will feed into the next GHRP and be aligned with it to actually show what Iraq will be doing in the field. The Emergency Response Plan is within parameters of HRP 2020 (same geographical areas). The overall appeal is USD 305M, including USD 53M for GP, HLP and MA; USD 12 M for GBV and USD 5M for CP. New GP activities: information hotlines; COVID-19 cash for protection; capacity-building for humanitarian actors. New HLP activities: Setup of referrals of cases to deliver cash for rent support; Remote legal counseling of HH threatened with eviction. New CP activities: Alternative Care for Unaccompanied Children; Support for Children in Institutions.

• **Other Clusters operational response COVID-19.** The preparedness & response plan for camps has been completed, but it is yet to be developed for informal sites. A scenario planning by the Health cluster has been developed. It has been approved by the ICCG and is pending approval from the HCT and MoH.

**Protection monitoring of the COVID-19 situation**
The objective is to measure the protection impact of COVID-19 and of the public measures and regulations put in place to contain it. This will encompass both new protection risks specifically linked to this change in context as well as pre-existing issues which may be aggravating. The monitoring will also provide evidence to adapt the protection response to evolving needs and to support advocacy efforts. The protection monitoring will be done remotely and at the community-level through KIs. It will be based on quantitative data through a standardized and structured questionnaire. Data will be collected on a monthly basis through a targeted sampling of KIs. The geographical coverage is based on partners’ areas of interventions and presently include 18 governorates and 51 districts. Data will be collected through a Kobo-based questionnaire developed and centralized by the NPC. The NPC will produce monthly analytical dashboards as well as analytical briefs on an ad hoc basis. Partners will be trained on the questionnaire on 21-22 April. Data will be collected by the end of April and the analytical products developed within the first 1-2 weeks of May.

**Accountability to Affected Populations/Communication with Communities Working Group**
The AAP/CwC Working Group is creating an AAP/CwC page on the Iraq Humanitarian Response website to serve as a central location for clusters, partners and UN agencies to share CwC and AAP materials in response to COVID-19. The page will also include a link to a Google Doc reflecting cluster activities. Interested partners may contact clusters directly if they are interested in participating. The page will include materials uploaded by WHO and Health Cluster regarding key messages that partners will be welcome to share among persons of concern. Health Cluster and WHO remain the leads on the COVID-19 response, including CwC and AAP.

3. **AOB**

a. Presentation of the report ‘HLP and Civil Documentation’ by REACH Initiative. The PPT of the study will be shared with NPC members via email. Additional information can be asked to Max GIBSON (max.gibson@reach-initiative.org) and Marta LOPEZ SOLE (marta.lopez-sole@reach-initiative.org).

b. The next NPC meeting will be on May 14, 2020.