



National Protection Cluster

Minutes of Meeting (17 January 2019)

Locations: UNHCR Baghdad, NCCI Erbil, plus Webex

Chaired by: Claudia Nicoletti (NPC Co-Coordinator)

1. Review of Action Points from 13 December meeting

2. Strategic & Thematic Updates:

- a. Strategic Update from KR-I PWG (10 mins)
- b. Strategic Update from C/S PWG (10 mins)
- c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster (10 mins)
- d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster (10 mins)
- e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster (10 mins)
- f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster (10 mins)
- g. Strategic Update from CwC Task Force (10 mins)
- h. Update from NPC – Update on HRP process (10 mins)
- i. Update from RPA mechanism (10 mins)

3. AOB (25 mins)

- a. NRC/ICLA presentation of “Reconstructing Justice in Iraq: Customary Justice and Housing, Land and Property Research in Anbar and Nineveh” report – *summary note attached* (15 mins);
- b. IOM presentation on MHPSS programme (10 mins).

1. Review of Action Points from 13 December meeting

Action Points	Update/Follow-up
• MASC to provide updates on residential clearance issue	Completed
• HLP Sub Cluster to clarify if budgetary allocations have been decided for Return Grants and Compensation for destroyed property by the GOI.	Completed
• NPC and CCCM Cluster to share the infographics from the Incident Matrix	Pending
• NPC to share full REACH Initiative presentation with partners together with the MOM	Completed

Minutes adopted without amendments.

2a. Strategic Update from KRI & Ninewa PWG

- In December 2018 only, a total of five individuals committed suicide in IDP camps out-of-camp locations in Dohuk, bringing the total number of reported suicides and attempted suicides to a total of 40 in 2018. Out of the reported 40 incidents, 11 were males (between the ages of 11 and 30), and 29 females, majority of them between 15 to 30 years old. This number represents an increase from the figures of 2017, when a total of 25 cases of suicide and attempted suicide were reported. According to information obtained either from the survivors themselves, or other sources, including community leaders, and health workers operating in the area, the main reason why IDPs attempted or committed suicide appear to be interlinked to the poor living conditions in the camps, uncertainty and lack of opportunities for the future, psycho-social challenges due to the protracted nature of displacement, as well as sexual and gender-based violence, family disputes and domestic abuse. There are currently 17 actors working on Mental Health & Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) across Dohuk governorate. Health and protection partners in Dohuk established a Taskforce. Humanitarian actors have also carried out MHPSS trainings for protection staff working in IDP camps and out-of-camp locations in Dohuk governorate. Dohuk Protection Working Group and its members continue to advocate for strengthened MHPSS response.
- **Continued militarization of camps in Ninewa**
Partners continue to express concerns over violations of the civilian and humanitarian character of IDP camps in Ninewa (Qayyarah Jed’ah, Airstrip and Haj Ali), including cases of detention of minors without arrest warrants

and activities of PMF actors inside camps. In some camps, it is accompanied by great concerns over allegations of GBV incidents and disproportionate impact in women. The NPC is finalizing the analysis of all incidents reported in 2018 and is currently rolling out the tool in the remaining camps in Ninewa (Salamyah 1 and 2, and Nimrud camps). As requested in the previous meeting, the analysis is trying to identify gender impact of incidents. The end-year result will be shared with partners accordingly.

2b. Strategic Update from C/S PWG

- **Anbar updates: Displacement trend** - *Anbar* - Secondary displacement continued in Anbar. It is reported that 30 families originally from Al-Qaim, Ana and Baghdad moved from KRI areas, Mosul and Baghdad to Amriyat al-Fallujah (AAF) and Habbaniya Tourist City (HTC) camps (movement happened using private transportation). Lack of available services, livelihood opportunities, camp closure plans, inability to pay rent and shelter damages in the area of origin are reported as the main reasons behind these movements.
- **Return – Anbar** – In the past month, 427 IDP families returned voluntarily from AAF, Bzebiz and HTC camps to Haditha, Heet, Al-Garma, Fallujah, Qaim and Ramadi (Anbar Governorate) escorted by the ISF. Few families returned using their own transportation.
- MoDM Branch in Al-Qaim stated that more than 6,500 families returned to the district, and have been registered with MoDM awaiting for including them with MoDM return grant distribution, which has not been launched yet. Accordingly to the local authority of Al-Qaim approximately 80% of the overall population have returned home.
- **Baghdad updates: Return – Baghdad** - During the reporting period, 6 IDP families returned voluntarily from Al-Amal Camp to Al-Qaim using private transportation.
- **Protection Concerns: Security incidents and military operations** occurred during the reporting period in Anbar governorate. Military search operations were conducted against extremist group elements and sleeper cells in Saqlawiyah, Al-Khaldiyah, Al-Qaim, Al-Karmah, Fallujah, Rutba and Fallujah districts. After the IED explosion in Al-Qaim on 11 January resulting in 27 casualties, a member of Anbar Provincial Council made a statement implying that the authorities should not facilitate the return of families and individuals affiliated with extremist groups as they may reinforce sleeping cells in Anbar districts. No specific outcome on the ground has been observed or reported so far.
- **Forced relocation and premature return:** After activation of the plan for closure of some of Bzebiz informal settlements, 210 families were relocated from the informal settlements of Bzebiz to AAF and Bzebiz formal central camps. The families are originally from different districts of Anbar and majority of them are from western districts of Anbar. This action resulted in a premature return of approximately 240 families, who preferred to return than undergo forced relocation. Camp closure/consolidation plan of Bzebiz has been postponed till the end of mid-term of the current academic year, meaning February 2019. Reportedly, the authorities are planning to relocate all IDPs to AAF.
- **Collective punishment:** A tribal meeting took place in Ramadi on 7 January 2019 with the presence of the Mayor of Ramadi and the governmental and pro-governmental security forces. During the meeting, discussions were held with respect to the return movement of IDPs with perceived affiliation to extremist groups to different districts in Anbar. The meeting allegedly resulted in the decision to ban the return to areas of origin of families with perceived affiliations; they should be remaining in camps. Protection partners are monitoring the situation and will report of any protection violation and risk for IDPs. No specific action/implementation of the reported decision is observed so far.
- **HLP:** As reported by the local authorities, the Real Estate Registration Department of Al-Qaim resumed work after suspension since June 2014. The opening of the department shall support to overcome HLP and compensation issues faced by the returnees.
- **Diyala Update:** Diyala continues to have almost weekly security incidents in different areas, whilst military operation continues against extremist groups. The local authorities of Al-Muqadadiya has approved the return of 240 IDP families; however, only 120 have returned so far.

2c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster

- **Service mapping and referral pathway** being updated by GBVWGs (Dohuk, Suly, Erbil, Kirkuk, CS/Baghdad, Diyala, Basra, Ninewa). There are funding gaps for GBV programs reported by partners.
- **GBV mainstreaming workshop in Erbil Jan 16th – 17th:** GBV Mainstreaming workshop for cluster leads/co-leads and focal points being conducted in Deedeman Hotel from Jan 16th – 17. The objective is to support the **roll out of 2015 IASC GBV Guidelines across targeted clusters** (Health, Shelter/NFI, Protection, CCCM, WASH and Food Security) with a particular focus on improving the protective environment for women and girls, boys at risk, including GBV survivors, through mitigation and prevention of GBV. TOT for GBV Focal points will be organized

and on-site mentoring and coaching will be provided to those trained to support risk identification, mitigation and referral to specialized services.

- **GBVSC meeting calendar Jan-June:** The GBVSC conducts monthly national meetings at NCCI in Erbil from 10:00am - 12:00pm, every second Tuesday of the month. Below is the meeting calendar from Jan – June and in case of any changes of date(s), GBV partners will be notified in advance. Next meetings will be on 12 Feb, 12 March, 9 April, 14 May, 11 June.
- **GBV Coordination workshop in Cairo Feb 25th – 28th:** GBV AOR is piloting the revised Handbook for Coordinating Gender – Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) and related training modules in the Middle East region. GBVSC in Iraq is planning to have the participation of GBVWG Chairs/Co-chairs, besides the national Co-leads. Focus is on core coordination functions and familiarity with the Coordination Handbook as a learning and training companion, providing a platform for discussing and developing strategies to overcome context specific bottlenecks.
- Efforts are being made to collaborate with livelihood actors to respond to needs of GBV survivors in Anbar and Salah Adin. TAJDID with support from UNFPA conducted a GBV training in Baghdad for MOLSA and MODM in Dec.
- In Kirkuk, a new unit in DoH was opened for supporting gender and human rights and they are in good collaboration with the GBV WG. UNFPA provided Kirkuk DoH with CMR kits to fill the gaps that existed.
- Dohuk: The 119 hot line which was launched recently in Duhok by DCVAW is functional (for supporting GBV survivors).

2d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster

- The CPSC SAG agreed to expand the (CPSC SAG) membership from two to three national NGOs and INGOs while the two standing UN membership remains the same. This will create an opportunity for more NNGOs membership as well as new members and encourage geographical coverage. CPSC has sent out an Expression of Interest to members who are interested and capable to apply. The link is <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdn54SEyJeWEAQk3dzaaWr9X3WoNsavWHBUSKutx3X22y4lug/vie/wform>
- CPSC conducted the initial orientation sessions for HRP 2019 indicators for partners last month (December 2018).
- After the review of the CP Case Management SOPs for KRI, TDH – Italy hosted a similar exercise in a two-day workshop in Baghdad (14th – 15th Jan) bringing together key CM partners in the Federal Iraq. Once they are finalised, the SOPs will be rolled out to all partners nationally.
- CP case management is at the core of the CPSC response in Iraq. Due to much weight put on the current CMWG lead and the need to emphasize the importance of CP Case Management, it was discussed and agreed among the CM WG members and the IRC offered to recruit and fund a full-time position to support this (CP CM) coordination. Please find link: <https://reliefweb.int/job/2944174/case-management-advisor-child-protection>. Members are requested to encourage suitable candidates to apply.
- Plans are underway for an evaluation to generate lessons learned from the case management supervision and coaching program that was implemented in 2018.

2e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster

- Iraq MA AoR (MASC) together with its Members and in coordination with the national mine action authorities (Directorate of Mine Action – DMA and Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency – IKMAA) and UNMAS has finalised the Mine Action Portfolio, which was reviewed by UNMAS and UNDP at HQ level. The Global MA Portfolio will be rolled out at the annual UN Advisors and National Directors meeting in Geneva in the week of 4 February 2019. Iraq is especially important for the 2019 MA Portfolio, given that at the moment the budget requests for the MA response comprise more than 53% of the total budget requests globally. This fact only further accents the vastness and complexity of the explosive hazard contamination in Iraq as well as the severity of need with regards to MA activities.
- MASC Coordinator, together with the HLP coordinator, gave a training in January 2019 to all UNMAS staff in Baghdad and in Erbil on Protection in Practice, particularly focusing on the HLP and MA issues in Iraq.
- **Access:** The issue of access through checkpoints remains for some partners, now including national NGOs, which did not seem to face these issues before. There still is no clarity on why this is happening. The MASC continues to raise the access issue with serious concern for such obstruction of humanitarian activities. If the humanitarian MA partners are denied access to areas of concern, they are not able to carry out life saving activities. MASC is raising the issue through the Access Working Group, while UNMAS and humanitarian partners are seeking channels of support as well.

- **Accreditation:** While the issue of accreditations was resolved through acquiring of temporary accreditation for humanitarian INGOs, some partners have been recently facing issues with acquiring permanent accreditation from DMA and have raised the issue through the MASC. The lack of permanent accreditation for humanitarian MA partners results in stand down of operations and a halt to life saving humanitarian MA activities. MASC and UNMAS are engaging in dialogue on this issue directly with the national authorities. The MASC will monitor the developments closely and form its response accordingly.
- **Explosives, ISF and response:** In Federal Iraq, only ISF is authorised to use explosives to render items safe. The MASC continues to advocate for the use of specialised equipment other than explosives to facilitate activities of HMA operators. In terms of reporting suspected EH, please be advised and advise your partners accordingly to contact DMA or Civil Defence hotlines, at **182** and **115**. Humanitarian partners and UN agencies, as well as the cluster system may utilise the UNMAS online reporting tool which is now also embedded into the NCCI website. Partners may also contact the MASC directly at IraqMineActionAoR@unops.org.
- **Reporting of Explosive Hazards by UN Cluster and Sub-Cluster Members and UN Agencies:** The UNMAS online EH reporting form is now embedded in the NCCI website front page, for ease of finding: <https://www.ncciraq.org/en/> . The link below is to be used for reporting the sighting of explosive hazards or suspected explosive hazards in liberated areas, this includes explosive remnants of war (ERW), landmines, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The form is self-explanatory and is available in English and Arabic. <http://bit.ly/TaskRequestForm>. Once submitted, the form comes directly to UNMAS and contact will be made with the originator (if details are available) after which actions and processes will be explained. This is done in coordination with the Directorate of Mine Action and completion reports are shared to the national database. **Non-UN/non-cluster please phone the national mine action hotline '182' or the Civil Defense Force '115'.** Reminder to all: Do not approach or touch suspected explosive hazards.
- **Risk Education (RE) and MA Planning:** MASC continues to encourage humanitarian partners to attend RE awareness sessions and urges humanitarian colleagues to contact the MASC, an accredited MA organisation or the national authorities for more information on safe behavior and necessary measures as part of their own project planning and implementation. UNMAS continues to regularly organise Explosive Hazard (EH) Awareness Training for Humanitarian Workers. There are two sessions in January in Arabic and English on 20 January and 27 January. For more information on this please contact UNMAS RE Consultant, Celine Cheng at celine.cheng@unmas-iraq.org or the MASC Coordinator, Kristina Duric at iraqmineactionaor@unops.org
- **Residential Area Clearance:** The MASC Coordinator provided an overview of the status of Residential Area Clearance to the NPC. The briefing note on residential area clearance is yet to be shared by the MASC, as the situation is constantly involving. HLP and MA Sub-Clusters are developing a guidance note on the issue and will share it publicly once completed – expected time for completion is February 2019. For more and up to date information please contact MASC coordinator at IraqMineActionAoR@unops.org

2f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster

- Compensation guidelines for damaged/destroyed properties have been endorsed by HLP SAG and have been shared with all partners. The guidelines aim to support HLP partners who are working on compensation in understanding the Iraqi compensation scheme, the procedures on how and where to submit a claim, eligibility criteria, required documents, among other important procedures. There is a flow chart explaining the process for each of the main governorates. The guidelines are user friendly and are being translated to Arabic.
- HLP SC is in the process of drafting a position paper on property compensation in Iraq, aimed at stakeholders. The position paper will address all challenges with regards to the compensation scheme and will provide recommendations therein.
- In an effort to support local partners and national staff working on the field, the HLP SC conducted two trainings. The first training was provided on the compensation guidelines in Arabic. The training for UNMAS staff was provided on HLP international principles and HLP challenges in Iraq. HLP SC is planning on rolling out the training with no current fixed dates, and we extend our readiness to all partners who would like to be trained on HLP both in English and Arabic
- HLP SC is drafting new TORs, reporting, and referral mechanisms for the HLP governorate based focal points; will be shared with the SAG next month
- Regarding the budgetary allocations for Return Grants and Compensation for the destroyed property, through our partners, we have been in direct contact with government officials to understand more about it and information we received this morning are that there is still no clear budget line yet for compensation. We understood that budget has been returned to government to do some amendments and it is expected to be published this Saturday, and we will be able to understand exactly if there is a budget line or if budget has been allocated for property compensation.

- As per Returns Grants, in the budget allocation it is not emphasized clear under which budget line will be included. Nevertheless, MOMD explained that the Returns Grant is separate from the Compensation Grants, and that MOMD considers the Return Grant to be of a higher priority than the compensation one at the current time.

2g. Strategic Update from CwC Task Force

- **Awareness Raising Materials:** Learning materials about Accountability to Affected Population (AAP), Communication with Communities (CwC) and Know Before You Go (KBYG) have been translated to Arabic and shared with protection working groups coordinators. A Kurdish version is currently being revised.
- **Capacity Building:** CwC facilitated one Training of Trainers session for the rollout of the Know Before You Go (KBYG) messaging in Kirkuk. As usual the sessions also included an introduction to AAP and CwC. Additional reading materials about best practices about Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Face to Face (F2F) communication were made available through a Dropbox folder. The ToT in Kirkuk yielded comments and feedback about the choice of some Arabic wordings which upon NPC, Return Working Group, and CwC are engaging in discussion on to what extent these comments could be accommodated.
- **Hotlines, Complaints and Feedback Mechanism Mapping for 2019:** CwC is updating Hotlines, Complaints and Feedback Mechanism Database along with CwC 4Ws nationwide.

2h. Update from NPC

- **Update on HRP process:** the HNO 2019 was launched in December 2018 and can be found here: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/iraq>. The HRP will be probably launched around the second week of February (tbc); the total ask is around 701 Million.

2i. Updates from RPA mechanism

RPA Findings

- **Kilo 7 informal site, Ramadi district, Anbar governorate**

Protection concerns: Protection of women and children (exploitation of IDP community).

Summary: The IDP community residing in Kilo 7 informal site have serious protection concerns, relating to the protection of women and children, physical risks to safety due to unsafe shelters and buildings, self-imposed restrictions on movement, and a lack of access to appropriate medical care and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

- **Badush town, Mosul district, Ninewa governorate**

Protection concerns: Tribal tensions/social cohesion concerns, vulnerable population groups (FHH), missing/detained people.

Summary: The main protection concerns in Badush town relate to tribal tensions and social cohesion concerns, exacerbated by a lack of livelihood opportunities; vulnerable population groups including female headed households and children and; legal protection issues as well as missing/detained persons.

- **RPAs upcoming:** Western Anbar, Salah al-Din – areas of return, Diyala – areas of return
- **RPA 2018 survey**

We will be sending a link to NPC partners to answer a few questions about the RPA project in 2018, we would appreciate if you or your colleagues could take the few minutes to answer these questions when we send out the link.

3. AOB

- NRC/ICLA presentation of “Reconstructing Justice in Iraq: Customary Justice and Housing, Land and Property Research in Anbar and Nineveh” report:** NRC presented findings of the recent study on customary justice and HLP issues. Summary of the research were already circulated with NPC partners. For additional info, please contact Naomi Johnstone at naomi.johnstone@nrc.no.
 - IOM presentation on MHPSS programme:** IOM presented its MHPSS program in country. For additional info, please contact Gulistan Chalabi at GCHALABI@iom.int.
- Next NPC meeting to be held on 14 February from 11:00 am to 1:00pm.