



## National Protection Cluster

### Minutes of Meeting (14 February 2019)

**Locations:** UNHCR Baghdad, NCCI Erbil, plus Webex

**Chaired by:** Claudia Nicoletti (NPC Co-Coordinator) and Mohammed Khan (NPC Coordinator)

#### 1. Review of Action Points from 17 January 2019 meeting

#### 2. Strategic & Thematic Updates:

- a. Strategic Update from KR-I PWG (15 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 HNO Lessons Learnt workshop, Update on IHF 1<sup>st</sup> Standard Allocation/Lessons Learnt, and Update on Grand Bargain: Localization report (20 mins)
- i. Update from RPA mechanism (10 mins)

#### 3. AOB (10 mins)

#### 1. Review of Action Points from 17 January meeting

Action Points	Update/Follow-up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPC and CCCM Cluster to share the infographics from the Incident Matrix</li> </ul>	To be completed during the meeting.

Minutes adopted without amendments.

#### 2a. Strategic Update from KRI & Ninewa PWG

- **Ninewa** - Survival sex continues to be reported as of great concern in Airstrip camp. Assessments carried out so far continue to highlight the lack of livelihood, presence of armed actors and/or perceived affiliation to extremist groups as sources of the phenomenon. Additional protection assessments are being carried out in the camp and discussions started to help design immediate and long-term prevention and mitigation responses complementary to the activities carried out by the GBV actors under the coordination of the GBV Sub-Cluster. A call for additional donor support may be necessary to ensure that a comprehensive response is in place. Additional measures in Haj Ali whereby IDPs are requested to provide sensitive information to the Federal Police in order to leave the camp is representing a disproportional impact on the freedom of movement of IDPs. Protection actors in the camp are further assessing the impact of new measures in place to inform advocacy. Some IDPs have expressed concerns over the new policies and the impact on their daily life in the camp.
- **Service Mapping** - The NPWG has developed a Service Mapping tool for protection activities in Ninewa governorate. Protection actors are requested to provide the name of a focal point for the completion of the information. The focal points should complete the tool with all activities implemented or secured (but with implementation at a later stage).

#### 2b. Strategic Update from C/S PWG

- **Diyala:** The governorate of Diyala has approved the return of 750 IDP families including the IDPs from Al-Wand 1 and 2 camps; only 240 families have come to Al-Sadiya to verify with ISF whether their names are enlisted in the return list and have returned back their place of displacement. The reasons behind not returning to the place of origin are HLP destruction, and continuation of schools' semester. There have been reports of abduction of children under 15 by extremist groups in Khanaqeen, and related propaganda by extremist groups in social media. Sniper attacks targeting civilians in Al-Waqf village/Al-Abbara/Baquba district have been reported. Authorities warned citizens about increasing water levels in Diyala's river, affecting Himreen and Al-Sidoor dams, where some villages may be subject to flooding. The situation is within the normal range so far. Some villages were under threat of displacement due to the increased rains affecting Al Roz river of Al Muqdadiya, however, the water levels in the river have since decreased.

- **Kerbala (including Babil, Najaf & Wassit): Returns:** The pace of return of displaced families to their areas of origin has been low because of the school season, and because of the lack of services in their areas of origin. In total, 41 families voluntarily returned to their areas of origin. From Kerbala, 8 IDP families voluntarily returned to their areas of origin in Ninewa. From Babil, 15 IDP families voluntarily returned to their areas of origin in Ninewa/Anbar. From Najaf, 13 IDP families voluntarily returned to their areas of origin in Ninewa. From Wassit, 5 families voluntarily returned to Ninewa. Access to services/assistance: Health department and MoMD in Karbala have created GBV unit in their departments to identify GBV cases from both IDP and host community and refer the cases to the specialized partners for psychosocial support and any other intervention. The PWG in Karbala are working to develop the service mapping through adding new partners like the GBV unit in health department, JCMC.
- **Salah al-Din: Security:** On 26 January extremist groups attacked the tribal PMF checkpoint in Al-Mezare'ah area in Yathrib sub-District (5 KM) southeast of Balad District. According to Yathrib Mayor, 2 PMF were killed. No one was arrested and no curfew was imposed by ISF. The return families in the area are worried due to extremist groups' attacks. According to SAD operation command, SAD police Directorate, Ninewa operations command and the PMF forces, a military operation was launched on the 6 February 2019 in order to search and clear the areas in Kanus village north east of Shirqat. The operation has not affected the returnees and/or the IDP population in the area, and no restrictions of movement have been imposed.
- **The Government and tribes Meeting** - According to Sheikh Athab Ali from Balad District a meeting was held between PMF (Asab Ahail al Haq) leaders and tribal leaders from Balad, Dujual, Kazrig at PMF HQ in Balad district. They discussed the return process and procedures in Saeed Garib area, located 5 km south of Balad district. This area was liberated at the end of December 2015, and until today returns are not allowed in accordance with Asab Ahail Al Haq instructions. Sheikh Mudhar Abbas Al Sha'alan requested Al Refeat tribe (in Saeed Garib area) to pay monetary compensation, because of HLP destruction during extremists control of the area, but the request of Sheikh Mudhar Abbas was refused by other sheikhs. Currently there are about 1,500 families from Saeed Garib area displaced in different location across the country. It was agreed to hold another meeting soon to decide the final points of the return agreement; people present at the meeting asked the Saeed Garib Shaikes to provide a list of the families who want to return, and another list of males who will join the PMF force should the return happen. SAD PWG will follow up on this issue.
- **The Return Situation** - On 30 January, two families, 9 Individuals, who recently moved from Al-Shahama camp to Al-Karama, left the camp and moved to Laylan Camp 2; 7 families from Al Bu Hashma 10 families returned to Yathrib, 1 family returned to Farhatiyah; 19 families to Aziz Balad. The families in Aziz Balad are subject to lack of services, and shelter; the number of families returning to Baiji and Al Saniyah was 60 families; 184 families received clearance to return to Refeat area (these are families living in Balad train station).
- **Basra: returns** - 1 family with 5 individuals returned to Anbar, 1 family with 5 individuals returned to Mosul, and 1 family with 4 individuals returned to Salah al-Din; in Missan - 1 family with 6 individuals returned to Mosul; in Thi-Qar - 3 families with 16 individuals returned to Mosul; in Muhtanna - 2 families with 11 individuals returned to Mosul; in Dewaneyah - 7 families with 31 individuals returned to Mosul. In addition, the heavy rain has been affecting IDPs who live in poor constructed shelters, and IDPs are in need to shelter kits. IDPs are suffering from the shortage of food ration, because of the transfer of PDS food ration to be distributed in the area of habitual residence. This problem has increased vulnerability among IDPs.
- **Anbar: Displacement trends:** Secondary displacement continued in Anbar. Approximately 26 families originally from Rawa, Ramadi, Fallujah and Al-Qaim moved from Kirkuk, KRI and Baghdad to HTC and AAF camps of Anbar using private transportation. Inability to pay for rent and HLP damage in their areas of origin, lack of livelihood opportunities and the security situation were the main reasons for these movements. **Return trends:** 15 IDP families returned voluntarily from AAF and HTC camps to Al-Qaim and Al-Khaldiyah district, using their own means of transportation. MoMD Branch of Al-Qaim reported that 4,250 households have been registered by MoMD as returnees. At the same time MoMD has not launched the return grant distribution in the concerned areas. **Protection/security concerns:** Military search operations were conducted against extremist's elements and sleeper cells in Heet, Haditha, Al-Qaim, Al-Rutba, Fallujah, Al Khaldiyah, Al-Karma and Al-Saqlawiyah. Such search operations raise concerns related to collective punishments against families with perceived affiliation to extremists. In view of the security situation in Syria, ISF increased static and mobile military patrols in Al-Qaim district given concerns of potential ISIL attacks and infiltration. Also, ISF attacked an ISIL location in Baguz village at the Iraq-Syria border resulting in the killing of a number of ISIL members as well as seizing explosive materials. Three civilian males were killed by ISIL sleeper cell in the desert of Haditha district. These military operations may impact on the willingness of IDPs from Al-Qaim to return. Additionally, an IED exploded in Haditha resulted in the death of a returnee; such incidents hinder the safe return of IDPs. **Collective punishment:** A house of a returnee in Zawiyah village of Heet was attacked by anonymous persons using a hand

grenade, resulting in no casualties. Due to the incident, the families left for Erbil as reported by the community leader (Mukhtar). The local authorities of Heet reported on a collective punishment incident against the family of an ISIL affiliated person i.e. despite the family denouncing the son affiliated with ISIL in front of the community and community leader (Mukhtar), they were evicted from their neighbourhood. UNHCR was notified of 4 families who left their area of origin in Ramadi to HTC camp after the local police arrested 2 male family members and seized hunting rifles with bullets after an explosion in their neighbourhood. One family from Fallujah reportedly left the district to HTC camp due to an unsettled tribal dispute dating back in 2012. *Camp closure:* The local authorities closed the formal sites of Bzebiz on 9 February and approximately 26 families (originally from Qaim) were relocated to AAF camps. Meanwhile 146 families moved to the informal camps (the families are originally from Jurf Al-Sakhar and Ewesat). Only IDPs originally from Jurf Al-Sakhar and Ewesat were allowed to choose to be relocated to either AAF or informal Bzebiz settlements. ISF provided some transportation, while some families managed their own transportation.

- **Baghdad: Al-Wahda camp:** On 31 January, UNHCR received information from the camp management of Al Wahda IDP camp (located in Al Rasheed sub-district of Al-Mahmudiyah District, Baghdad) about the closure of the camp. The camp management was verbally informed by the Baghdad Operations Command (BoC) about the closure and relocation of IDPs to Al Ahel Camp (located in Abu Ghreib District, Baghdad, approximately 60 km away from the neighbourhood of Al-Wahda camp). Al-Wahda camp consisted of 27 families from different areas of origin (1 family from Mosul; 1 from Jurf Al-Sakhar in North Babylon; 1 from Salah al-Din; and the rest from Al Rummanh sub-district of Al-Qaim, located at the Iraqi-Syrian border). The families were unwilling to return due to security concerns in their areas of origin, tribal disputes, HLP and infrastructure damage, lack of livelihood opportunities, as well as completion of the academic year in their children's current schools. IDPs in Al Wahda Camp lived in caravans that were in good condition and approximately 15 households were successful in finding livelihood opportunities in the neighbouring areas. Therefore, the lack of livelihood opportunities as well as shortage in services and assistance in Al-Ahel camp were additional factors contributing to their reluctance to be relocated. On 6 February, BoC and MoMD closed Al Wahda Camp and relocated 10 IDP families along with their belongings to Al Ahel Camp, using one bus and two trucks. Two additional families joined on 7 February after having left the camp earlier to live within the host community. The rest of the families had left the camp prior to the closure, to neighbourhoods within Al Rasheed sub district, i.e. the same district where Al Wahda camp was located. As reported by the Head of Al Rasheed District Council (DC), ISF held a meeting at the DC's Office with community leaders, urging them to prohibit IDPs from living or renting places within the host community and to alert the BOC of such occurrences as the ISF would like all IDPs from Al Wahda Camp to be moved to Al Ahel camp. BOC plans to close Al Amal camp in Abu Ghreib on 12 February, and MoMD has provided a letter to Al Ahel camp management requiring them to prepare the camp to receive 80 families from Al Amal camp. Due to lack of available slots in Al-Ahel Camp to host the new population, the relocation was postponed till 28 February after the intervention of UNHCR and MoMD. Meanwhile, UNHCR is proving Al-Ahel camp with additional Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) to provide enough accommodation to host additional population.

**AP: NPC to follow up with Anbar/BGD PWG coordinators requesting more information re: search operations actor.**

## **2c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster**

- **GBV mainstreaming:** The GBV SC Iraq developed a step-wise approach of mainstreaming and integration GBV IASC Guidelines across the following clusters; Health, Protection, Shelter/NFI, WASH, Food Security and Agriculture 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, including referrals to specialized services.
  - Step 1: Consultation held with the clusters' coordinators, co-coordinators, GBV focal points, OCHA, as well as Training Needs Assessment conducted with the clusters' coordinators and co-coordinators at the national level as well sub-national level. (DONE)
  - Step 2: Development of the training package for the clusters' coordinators, co-coordinators and GBV Focal Points, as well as cluster specific training package for the targeted clusters as well as the TOT. (DONE)
  - Step 3: Roll-out of the 2 days training for the clusters coordinators, co-coordinators and GBV focal points (held on 16-17 Jan in Erbil). (DONE)
  - Step 4: Cluster specific training package in which each of the identified clusters were given a day. For example, Protection cluster and sub-cluster partners were trained on 23 Jan; Shelter/ NFI on 28 Jan; Health on 30 Jan; WASH on 6th Feb and Food Security and Agriculture cluster partners were trained on 13 Feb. CCCM cluster is pending as of now. The 4 days long TOT will be held in Baghdad between 24-27 targeting GBV focal points as well as two partners from each cluster (one local NGO, and the second an INGO). The TOT in Erbil will be rolled out between 10-13 March.

- Step 5: Onsite coaching and mentoring of the identified TOTs who will further coach and mentor their respective clusters partners of how best to mainstream and integrate the essential actions as per the Humanitarian Program Cycle- and provide support (technical)
- **Updating service mapping and referral pathway** will be completed by Feb 28<sup>th</sup> GBVWGs (Dohuk, Suly, Erbil, Kirkuk, CS/Baghdad, Diyala, Basra, Ninewa). Final documents will be uploaded to the google drive and a link will be shared with other actors.
- **GBV Case Management Working Group:** As per the 2019 work plan, activities are ongoing, especially, review of case management tools for harmonization and standardization, and review of guidance note on case conference The next meeting is scheduled on 25 February.
- There are funding gaps for GBV programs reported by partners in all governorates especially 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year but case management and counselling will continue in all camps.

## 2d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster

- **Collaboration with the MoE and the capacity building of the Social Work Force.** Efforts to create the linkages with the MoLSA/DoLSA SW force for purposes of CP capacity building were initiated. The CPSC met with MoE officials (including the Directorate for Social Workers) and a focal person for the process – on behalf of MoE, was identified. The CPSC will organize a high-level meeting that brings together the officials from both ministries to discuss the best approaches to nurture this collaboration.
- **CP PSS – updates and way forward:** A total of 42 agencies are currently participating in the national PSS roll-out, out of which:
  - 14 national; 27 international ; 1 government – 91 ready ToTs for roll-out;
  - 8 out of nine ToTs were conducted in KRI due to visa restrictions (for facilitators);
  - In 2019, priority will be given to ToT to take place in **Central/South** for partners who have been unable to attend trainings so far.
- **CP Case Management supervision and coaching initiative** - CP partners were involved in Supervision and Coaching training for child protection case management initiative in 2018. The CP CMWG hosted a consultant (from 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Feb) to gather lessons learned from the initiative. The consultant met with CP Case management managers, training participants and case workers to understand the successes and challenges of this initiative.
- **Case management service mapping** – due to many changes over the period of time, there is an ongoing effort to update the CP service mapping, particularly Case management
- **A meeting for juvenile justice actors** was held on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb to review and update the programs intended for children in detention and similar activities. A facility-based 5W was updated thereafter. However, there are not so many partners. Therefore, for members that would be interested to form part of this network are welcome to contact the CPSC.

## 2e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster

- **AOR** - The Global MA Portfolio was rolled out at the annual UN Advisors and National Directors meeting in Geneva on 7 February at a special press conference where the Head of UNMAS, the UNMAS Iraq Senior Programme Manager and the Iraq MA AoR Coordinator focused specifically on mine action situation and humanitarian situation in Iraq. The links to different articles highlighting the Iraq overview could be shared with all in the minutes of this meeting. The draft of the HLP and MA guidance note is in progress and will be share with all once ready.
- **Access** - The issue of access through checkpoints still remains. We have now received a contact person details for reporting issues of access from the Access WG. We will share these details directly without partners in hope such issues will be solved in the future.
- **Accreditation** - We still have a number of partners who are being verbally promised by the Directorate of Mine Action that their accreditations are ready and finalized, yet nothing materializes on that front. Partners have been on stand down for months, while others have not been able to start their operations since mid-last year. This is unacceptable given that Iraq is probably the most contaminated country in the world with complex and extensive explosive hazard contamination dating back not only to the most recent conflict with ISIS, but going back for decades. The immediate enabling humanitarian and lifesaving nature of mine action operations is pressing and cannot be further obstructed. The UN, UNMAS, the MASC as well as partners on a bilateral basis are all engaged in dialogues on highest levels to seek a mutual solution on the issue of accreditations with the DMA and the Government of Iraq. The MASC will continue informing on the developments.
- **Explosives, ISF and response** - In Federal Iraq, only ISF is authorised to use explosives to render items safe, this remains unchanged. The MASC continues to advocate for the use of specialised equipment other than

explosives to facilitate activities of HMA operators as the use of explosives makes mine action operations safer, more sustainable and operationally efficient. 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**. We would like to clarify an existing misunderstanding that the two hotlines only work in the centre and south of Iraq. This is not true – 182 and 115 are available for the whole of Iraq and there is no need for a special area code to be dialed. 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](mailto: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 will be two sessions held in the first half of March both in English and in Arabic. Detailed information will be circulated as soon as available.
- **Residential Area Clearance** - The MASC is still not able to provide a briefing note, due to the sensitivity of the topic and will continue to update on the developments through the Protection Cluster. So far and since the last time there were no changes.

## 2f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster

- HLP SC provided a presentation and a Q&A session on the “Property Compensation Guidelines” at the RWG.
- The CRC team has requested an increase collaboration between the HLP SC and the CRCs, with respect to information dissemination, awareness raising, and referral pathways – we shall be providing the CRC with additional trainings, available in Arabic and English.
- We extend our invite to any organization who would like a training on the compensation guidelines, available in Arabic and English.
- We have worked and continue working with the global HLP AOR on the 2019 global strategy, with a focus on strengthening “Security of Tenure”.
- The HLP SC presented on strengthening security of tenure in Iraq at the global HLP AOR meeting held on 14/02/19, with a view on the UN Habitat project in Sinjar focusing on tenure security.
- HLP SC and the MA SC are in collaboration regarding the drafting of an MA/HLP guidance note on the clearance of civilian properties – we will keep you updated on that as it moves forward.
- A recent RPA identified HLP violations in Balad district, Salah Al Din, with respect to lack of property documentation and property damage– an HLP partner has sent a scoping team to the area and is evaluating the type of assistance that they are able to provide.
- Following the finalization of the TOR for the HLP SC’s governorate-based focal points and referral pathways, we will be holding the next HLP SAG meeting next Thursday where we aim to endorse the TOR and finalize the focal point system – we will keep you updated on that.

## 2g. Strategic Update from CwC Task Force

- **Awareness Raising Materials** - Awareness rising materials developed by IOM about Flood Safety was shared with CwC and protection partners and disseminated in IDP camps. Awareness rising materials developed by ACTED and UNHCR about Stoves and Kerosene safety was shared with Erbil Protection Working Group to counter fire hazards in IDP camps; Key messages about Emergency Repairs of War Damaged Shelters are being developed in partnership with the Shelter Cluster;
- **Capacity Building** - No capacity Building activities took place during the reported period.
- **Coordination** - CwC, NPC, and CCCM are working with WFP to ensure effective communication of Key messaging about WFP most recent changes in assistance cycle to IDPs; CwC is mapping CwC actors’3Ws; A

dedicated Google Drive to host all CwC materials have been created and shared with partners to ensure all NPC partners get access to CwC Iraq library.

AP: NPC to share the google drive link of CWC material with the partners.

## 2h. Update from NPC

- **Update on HNO lessons learnt workshop** – All Clusters participated in the inter-cluster lessons learnt event organized by OCHA on Monday, 11 February 2019, to review the main processes related to the 2019 HNO. The purpose of the meeting was to identify ways of strengthening system-wide needs assessment and analysis processes by reviewing the HNO lessons learnt document, jointly assess the recommendations and prioritize the critical ones for implementation throughout 2019, and outline the elements of a needs assessment strategy. A lessons-learnt document with indication of ‘what went well’, “what did not go so well” and “what should be done differently/better” was compiled with feedback from all Clusters, including the Information Management Officers, and discussed during the meeting. Some recommendations on the way forward were discussed further and will be prioritized in the strategy/action plan for 2019. *Feedback on the lessons learnt can be found in the attached document.*
- **Update on IHF 1<sup>st</sup> Standard Allocation/Lessons Learnt** - HFU has requested all Clusters to provide feedback on how to improve the 1<sup>st</sup> Standard Allocation; feedback was consolidated and presented at the IHF Advisory Board meeting on 10 February 2019; once official communication will be shared by HFU (with compiled feedback from Advisory Board), the NPC will circulate the document with partners.
- **Update on Grand Bargain: Localization report** – the Grand Bargain mission was deployed to Iraq for the second time in November 2018; the mission was planned and organised by the International Federation of the Red Cross, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation with the support from Reach, Oxfam, the Office of the HC/RC and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. The mission followed the signing of the Grand Bargain commitment at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016; once the workstream agreed upon is the Localization Workstream, which includes commitments on (1) funding local actors as directly as possible; (2) investing in long term institutional capacity of local actors; (3) promoting equal partnership btw international and local actors; (4) ensuring better integration with the local coordination mechanisms. Recommendations are here below:
  - **For institutional donors and bilateral agencies to:** (a) develop/pilot strategies on risk sharing that address fiduciary compliance and impartiality concerns for local and national actors; (b) include provisions in partnership agreements with international partners for minimum percentage coverage for overhead costs, capacity strengthening and visibility for local and national partners; (c) support consortium projects between UN agencies/INGOs and local and national actors; (d) increase funding for capacity building for local and national actors to efficiently manage the funds provided through the Iraq Humanitarian Fund and increase multi-year investments and; (e) provide more flexible, simplified and harmonized reporting requirements.
  - **For UN agencies and INGOs to:** (a) lobby donors and other international partners to accept or make use of their local partner risk assessment and create opportunities for local and national actors to demonstrate their trustworthiness; (b) hold open, honest and regular conversations with local partners on both sides’ views of the risks and challenges and agree on ways forward; (c) explore multi-lateral funding and non-funding partnerships with local and national actors (d) review or develop partnership strategies and policies in cooperation with local partners; (e) support NGO Coordination Committee Iraq’s work on capacity building to local and national NGOs; (f) initiate regular country-based consultations and dialogue on the Grand Bargain, including its commitments on localization; (g) address specific concerns by local actors on coordination structures and meetings; (e) recognize the critical role of women’s rights and women-led organizations in the reconstruction phase and intentionally engage with them, especially on protection and gender equality.
  - **For local and national actors:** (a) conduct consultations to explore the possibility of forming an alliance/coalition/network that is informed and guided by a shared understanding and vision of localization; (b) develop or strengthen organizational development strategy and prioritize capacity-strengthening initiatives that address weaknesses in governance, systems and policies; (c) explore opportunities and feasibility to undertake local fundraising activities (individually and as a collective) in support of humanitarian response work and of their own financial sustainability.

## 2i. Updates from RPA mechanism

Two RPAs conducted since last month:

- Badush villages, Mosul district, Ninewa governorate - The main protection concerns in the villages of Badush 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.

- Findings of the RPA survey for protection partners here attached.

### **3. AOB**

- Partners are kindly requested to approach the NPC if they wish to present research projects.
- The next NPC meeting will be on 14 March from 11am to 1pm.