



**National Protection Cluster**

**Minutes of Meeting (15 August 2019)**

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

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

**1. Review of Action Points from 18 July meeting**

**2. Strategic & Thematic Updates:**

- a. Strategic Update from Ninewa / KR-I PWGs (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 IHF 2<sup>nd</sup> Standard Allocation (5 mins)
- i. Update from RPA mechanism (10 mins)

**3. AOB (30 mins)**

- a. UNFPA presentation on the Assessment of the Needs of and The Services Provided to Gender-Based Violence Survivors in Iraq (15 mins)
- b. NPA presentation on explosive ordnance contamination in Ninewa governorate (15 mins)

**1. Review of Action Points from 18 July meeting**

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Minutes adopted without amendments.

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

**KRI**

- Overall response: Overall the situation remains stable with similar needs in terms of legal assistance and MHPSS, combined with the impact resulting from socio-economic vulnerabilities highlighted as the main concerns. As partners withdrawal or reduce programmes across KRI, the KRI PWG with governorate-level PWGs will look at further highlighting the impact of such operational shifts. Partners previously or currently operating in KRI are invited to contribute to the analysis and should contact KRI PWG for further details.

**Ninewa Governorate**

- Potential violations of freedom of movement for Ninewa camp residents: CCCM actors in Ninewa received a series of letters and instructions from MoMD, JCMC and security actors whereby they should not allow IDPs who departed the camps at the start of the screening exercise back into the camps and support the process of relocation of IDPs originally from outside of Ninewa back to their governorates of origin. According to information receive, these are two of 17 points under Resolution 16 adopted by the National Security Council on 3 July. Authorities have indicated that the relocation of families should start soon. Humanitarian actors have tried to address these issues through local advocacy, but were unable to reach a positive outcome considering that both instructions are from the National Security Council. Ninewa actors are now discussing with actors at the central level for advocacy. It is unclear whether Ninewa authorities have coordinated the issue with Governors in Area of Origin and whether reciprocal arrangements could be put in place. At the local level, the implementation of some of the points included in the resolution has been discussed and ultimately decided by a committee convene by Ninewa Governor. This committee is also tasked to look at returns, in direct contrast with the GRC TORs adopted by the Government of Iraq in February 2018. Humanitarian actors are also advocating at the local level that returns are discussed within the GRC framework and on the basis of the Gol-endorsed Returns Framework.
- Screening in camps continue across Ninewa, with activities finalized for Hammam Al Alil camps, and currently underway in Salamiyah camps. No considerable incidents have been reported so far related to the screening per se.
- Civilian and Humanitarian character of the camps – Second Quarterly report: Based on the analysis, partners reported 143 incidents from January to June 2019, with over 100 incidents reported in the second quarter of

the year (Q2). This represents a significant increase in the number of incidents, particularly in April and May, which could be explained by increased reporting resulting from CCCM and National Protection Clusters' training efforts. Important to note, however, that number of incidents reported in specific camps is not indicative of a higher number of violations, but may be related to greater usage of the reporting tool by partners in camps. A total of 173 violations resulting from 143 incidents were reported and the main findings highlighted in the attached report. Clusters will continue working to improve reporting as partners share information on violation of the civilian character of camps through other means. Partners are encouraged to continue contributing to the tool in Ninewa, but to also make use of it for other governorates where incidents may occur.

- **Vacant Co-chair positions:** For another month, PWG Co-Chair position in Dohuk and Erbil remain vacant. PWG Coordinators at local level have called organizations to express their interest in the co-coordinator positions, but with no success to date. Call for expression of interest will be re-launched and shared with the NPC mailing list in hope that organizations central-structures can encourage their governorate-level offices to apply.

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

- **Kirkuk: Return:** Tuz district of Salah al-Din: Suliman Beg sub district: number of returning families is around 200 families. Including 150 families from Habash village who are visiting the village on daily basis for removing the debris and cleaning their houses. The families from Hafria Kabeer and Hafria Sagher are allowed to return, but no return has been reported so far. Amirli Sub district: 8 families returned to Maftol Kabeer village, 12 families to Maftol Sagher village, 1 family to Nabaa village, 3 families to Sarha village, 1 family to Abo Kabeer village, 2 families to Tal Sharef Sagher village, and 1 family to Tal Al Sharaf Kabeer village. Hawija district of Kirkuk: In July, 67 families returned to places of origin in Hawija district. 500 families are not allowed to return to Hawija, these families are originally from Makhmoor district of Ninewa. **Legal assistance / HLP:** The assessment for civil documentation in Laylan 1 &2 camps was completed by legal actors. Currently, NRC, IRC and HAI are collecting case files for issuance the civil documentation. "Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons and Returnees" (Arabic): UNHCR organized a workshop for members of PWG working with IDPs and returnees in Kirkuk. The workshop covered humanitarian principles, fundamental rights, barriers to solutions for IDPs, protection concerns and proposed solutions for Iraqi citizens with perceived affiliations, civilian & humanitarian character of camps and Kobo-based reporting tools.
- **Salah al-Din: Return:** During the reporting period, the return process in SAD have seen a considerable increase especially after the promise and actual distribution of the return grant of 1.5M IQD by MODM. 10 families have returned to Baiji and Senya, and about 500 families returned to Yathrib sub-district and Al-Bu Hashima area. **Eviction:** The SAD Deputy Governor and the Head of the IDPs committee have issued a memo to SAD education directorate ordering them not to register any students in the IDPs schools in the camps and complexes of SAD. The memo states that the 1<sup>st</sup> of September will be the date of the "voluntary" return of IDPs to their AoO. Partners and IDPs alike are expecting the evictions to start soon in SAD. Humanitarian actors have raised the issue to OCHA for follow up with SAD authorities. The issue has also been raised to the national Education cluster.  
**GRC:** The SAD GRC meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> of August and attended by GRC members and SAD Deputy Governor; the main focus of the discussion has been the expect eviction from Al Qaddisiyah complex and multiple camps in SAD; main points from the meeting as follows:
  - The Deputy Governor's office will immediately issue a letter informing residents of Al Qadissiya complex of the eviction plan – until today no official communication has gone out to the IDPs;
  - The DG expressed the government's commitment to expedite security clearances for IDPs facing eviction from Al Qadisiya complex, ensuring that these documents are ready for the eviction date of all IDPs facing complex eviction. Government also committed to inform check points of expected movement of evicted IDP families.
  - NGOs expressed commitment to continue to provide information services to IDPs, through focal points and complaints & feedback mechanisms until the completion of the eviction. NGOs will to review and complete analysis on information collected from focus group discussions and inform relevant partners in camps and area of origin/return/secondary displacement.
  - NGOs expressed their readiness to coordinate with the MoMD in Salah al-Din to provide reception centers at camps and register new arrivals in line with normal procedures if the government approves IDPs to relocate to camps following the eviction.
  - The DG explained that the government is aware of children who have exams in September and will take care of this issue in coordination with the Directorate of Education. He clarified that there is a shortage of teaching staff in the governorate because many teachers have moved to live in the Kurdish Region of Iraq therefore the Ministry of Education will instruct them to return to their areas very soon.
  - NGOs will prepare to conduct intention surveys and FGDs prior to evictions;

- The Salah al-Din NGO FP explained that the Provincial Council had a meeting with a number of IDPs representing 75 families residing in Al Qadisiya complex who have their areas of origin beyond the fire line and considered as military operational areas. These IDPs requested to either stay in the complex or be transferred to a second displacement site. On the other hand, IDPs of the complex requested to extend the eviction deadline until 9 October so that the children can complete the second term examination in September. The Provincial Council issued an official letter directed to the DG to consider these requests. The DG approved both requests and confirmed that the government will be flexible with the deadline, considering IDPs with special cases.
- CAOFSR will present a report on Basateen camp's capacity to receive IDPs from Al Qadisiya complex and the Deputy Governor will follow up on the Basateen camp eviction from the current location.
- **Anbar:** Jurf Al Sakher: there are rumors that the GoI will begin supporting returns to Jurf Al Sakher starting next week (week of 18 August). There are no details on whether or when this move might impact displaced populations in Anbar, but there might be developments soon. *IDP in camps:* Residents of AAF and HTC camps continue to feel pressured to return to their AoOs. This is partly due to continued restrictive measures, e.g. movement restrictions in HTC or confiscating of IDs of those unwilling to move in the consolidation process in AAF. Partly, the perceived pressure is more of a psychological nature. The recent military eviction campaign intimidated people, leading to them interpreting even unrelated events as harassment. E.g. recent reorganization of the supplementary food distribution process by humanitarian organisations was interpreted as part of a pattern of service reductions, aiming at forcing people out of the camps. While many are now willing to return, they face considerable logistical and bureaucratic obstacles.

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

- **Diyala:** UNFPA (through its IP Tajded), closed Al-Narjis WCC in Saad cap- Baquba (on July 31, 2019), due UNFPA plan to scaling down the UNFPA supported facilities in Iraq, because of the lack of funds, and transition period from Humanitarian to development context (UNFPA plan 2020-2024). In Khanaqin –Al-Wand 1 Camp, CDO (IP for UNFPA), handed over the UNFPA Supported facilities (Al-Salam WCC to PAO, and the RH clinic to Zhyan Health
- **Central South,** UNHCR started new project of cash assistance to support extremely vulnerable GBV Cases.
- **Dohuk,** UNFPA will start to distribute 1500 DKs to vulnerable women through its running WSCs which are under HARIKAR NGO.
- **Kirkuk,** the DoH has approved to provide pilot CMR services in Nasir hospital, they requested training for their new staff and UNFPA has a plan to involve them in upcoming trainings.
- **Ninewa,** NCA will take over the closed IMC center in Airstrip camp in addition to the closed UIMS center in the same area, this will help mitigating the GBV gaps in the camp. Ninewa GBV WG will continue the advocacy/coordination to fill GBV gaps in the area. In addition, economic vulnerability leading to negative coping mechanisms (including survival sex) is affecting women and girls. Discussions are ongoing among clusters/sectors to have holistic strategies in responding to this phenomenon.
- In collaboration with the National Protection Cluster, (Critical Protection Issues were drafted by GBVSC and presented at the HCT in Aug 2019. This highlighted critical funding gaps impeding GBV programming in Iraq (including critical governorates affected like Diyala, Salah Al Din, Kirkuk and Ninewa). In line with the funding gap, the following actions were taken as well by the GBVSC: (a) advocating with donors, starting with UNFPA as well as other GBV partners across the Country that have funding outside HRP to support the functionality of these WCCS, that offer a range of GBV services (GBV Case management, PSS, referrals, awareness etc).
- The GBVSC has included governorates/districts with critical funding gaps in the IHF 2<sup>nd</sup> Allocation for GBV partners to prioritize them.
- **Child and Adolescent Survivor Initiative (CASI):** GBV Sub -Cluster and Child Protection Sub-Cluster are planning with the Global CASI Coordinator for further support to Child Protection and GBV Actors in Ninewa. This will focus on replicating the referral pathway activity that was done in Anbar and Salah-Al-Din in 2018. Tentative dates: **Aug 31 – Sept 13<sup>th</sup>.**
- **IDP Call Center SOPs and key messaging:** GBVSC consulted with GBVWGs/partners and revised the IDP Call Center SOPs (GBVSC Section) and drafted key messaging for IDP call Center operators to strengthen coordination, safe and timely referral of GBV cases received from the call center for GBV partners to respond to (based on the locations).

AP: UNHCR to liaise with GBVIM Coordinator wrt parameters/trend analysis on GBV incidents in Iraq to be further shared with wider NPC members.

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

- CPSC SAG and CPWG coordinators will be in the retreat during 19-21 August, discussing the future coordination structure beyond 2021 and how to plan for HRP 2020. CPSC Strategic Advisory Group had the initial discussion on the transition of inter-agency coordination in the workshop on 17 July.
- The inter-agency Child Safeguarding policy draft (both in English / Arabic) is finalized and circulated to members for comments. Hannah Cattermole (contributed by TdH It) received 29 responses on the survey and interviewed 23 organizations, mainly national partners. There will be Implementation guide and training package to follow, there will be total of 6 trainings held for CP sub-cluster partners in Sep/ Oct.
- TGH funded by UNHCR hosted CP system strengthening workshop for KRI on 8 August, where stakeholders reviewed service mapping / referral pathway tools, performance evaluation tools and coaching and supervision tools.
- Based on the increased reporting of GBV incidences affecting children directly or indirectly in Ninewa camps, Child and Adolescent Survivor coordinator will be visiting to support the roll out of guidance developed in Anbar & SAD, and programmatic guidance for Ninewa. The support visit will be during 31 Aug- 13 Sep.

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

- The position of the Co-Coordinator is still vacant and the process to elect a new Co-Lead organization will start shortly. The ToR's of this position were revised and sent out to the MASC members for review and comments. Two NGOs requested to join the MASC. Invitations were sent to them to present their organizations in the upcoming MASC meeting on 21 August. The MASC members will then deliberate their memberships as per the MASC ToRs. There has been a request from a commercial company to join the MASC but the request was denied as per the National Protection Cluster Policy and MASC ToRs
- **Accreditation:** Currently one of the MASC members (Danish Demining Group) is on stand-down of activities due to the requirement to re-register with the DNGO since April 2019, affecting their operations and delivery of services.
- **Reporting Explosive Hazards:** A monthly reminder to all to please use and inform through your networks that all should use DMA or Civil Defence hotlines for reporting suspected explosive hazards. The numbers are **182** and **115** and are accessible through all of Iraq without any specific dial code, as it was misunderstood before. Additionally, all are also encouraged to contact the MASC at [iraqmineactionaor@unops.org](mailto:iraqmineactionaor@unops.org) and we can also liaise with our members for rapid response capacities. MASC encourages all to inform about and utilise the IDP Call Centre, from which we obtain referral cases. Finally, there is the UNMAS online reporting tool for humanitarian partners and UN agencies, as well as the cluster system, which you may find embedded into the NCCI website, as well.
- **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'.*
- **Returnees from AI Hol:** NPA is ready to respond to the AI Hol situation by providing Risk Education within the Camps where the returnees will be housed. NPA has a task order for Mosul district, and this camp is within that district so they can support as attached.

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

- HLP SC in coordination with HLP partner Ttdpk had a two days workshop with Central and governorate Compensation Committees. HLP SC presented main challenges in implementation of the Compensation Law 20 and 57, and also provided recommendations on how to address these challenges. Both, compensation guidelines and advocacy note has been presented to judges, and we agreed that we will work together to prepare another recommendation letter to address all the issues related to compensation to be submitted to COMSEC. It was agreed also in this workshop that the Law on Compensation need to be amended. It was agreed also in this workshop that the Law on Compensation need to be amended.

## 2g. Strategic Update from CwC Task Force

- **Awareness Raising Materials:** Information Education and Communication materials about safety in hot weather and fire safety were made available (in soft copy) for humanitarian partners as a response to the latest heat wave and multiple fire incidents that broke in some urban and camp settings. Information Education and Communication leaflet about the IDP Informational Centre and how calls are handled is been developed by the IIC in partnership with the CwC Taskforce.
- **Capacity Building:** CwC training needs assessment was conducted among the taskforce members so as to determine themes of training and to anticipate participation.

## 2h. Update from NPC

- **IHF 2nd Standard Allocation:** The result of the PMR, in terms of funding gaps, and achievement of targets set in the 2019 HRP, and geographic gaps, have determined the priorities that Clusters set for the IHF 2019 2<sup>nd</sup> Standard Allocation Strategy. The Allocation paper was endorsed by the HC and IHF Advisory Board, and shared with NPC members, together with NPC guidance note. Eligible partners have around 2 weeks to prepare their proposals, for review by Clusters (deadline for submission: 31 August 2019). It is expected that funds will be distributed at the beginning of October.

## 2i. Updates from RPA mechanism

RPA Team not present.

## 3. AOB

- a. **UNFPA presentation on the Assessment of the Needs of and The Services Provided to Gender-Based Violence Survivors in Iraq.** PPT shared with NPC MOM. Additional info/clarifications can be addressed to Ali ZEDAN [alahmed@unfpa.org](mailto:alahmed@unfpa.org) .
- b. **NPA presentation on explosive ordnance contamination in Ninewa governorate.** PPT shared with the NPC MOM. Additional info/clarifications on the presentation and NPA work can be requested to Christopher Graeme Ramsden [chrisramsdn@npaid.org](mailto:chrisramsdn@npaid.org) .
- c. The next NPC meeting will be on 19 September from 11am to 1pm.