



National Protection Cluster

Minutes of Meeting (16 January 2020)

Locations: UNHCR Baghdad, Ned Colt Erbil, plus Webex

Chaired by: Claudia Nicoletti (NPC Coordinator); Yannick Creoff (NPC Co-Coordinator)

1. **Review of Action Points from 12.12.19 meeting – (5 mins)**
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)**
 - h. **Update from NPC – Presentation on 2020 NPC HRP, Update on “Common Framework for Defining Humanitarian Engagement When Humanitarian and Protection Concerns are present” and related “Do No Harm” guidance note (30 mins)**

3. AOB

1. Review of Action Points from 12.12.19 meeting

NPC to provide an update at the next NPC meeting on the HRP 2020	Completed
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Minutes adopted without amendments.

2a. Strategic Update from KRI & Ninewa PWG

- In Sulaymaniyah, partners raised some issues in obtaining security approval for admission of families into IDP camps. OCHA will be having a discussion with JCCC on this in January. The NPC came to know that this practice was solved, but it will follow up again for better info.

AP: NPC to report back on this procedure at the next meeting.

Ninewa

- **WASH situation in Jeddah:** IDP population in Jeddah camp continue to highlight protection consequences linked to challenges faced by humanitarian actors working infrastructure and WASH response in the camp. These include safety and security concerns arising from the works on water drainage ditches and road infrastructure. On 9 and 12 December, two children sustained severe injuries after falling into ditches where water accumulated from the rain hid iron bars. In addition, without proper bridges covering the ditches, IDPs have repeatedly reported challenges in moving around the camp and minor accidents. Safety and security risks are further compounded the interruption of the road infrastructure works. IDPs have reported concerns about risks posed by trucks circulating in slippery roads, as well as resorting to negative coping mechanisms when services, such as drinking and domestic water provision, were not delivered due to road conditions.
- **Access:** Protection monitoring, assessment and response have been greatly impacted by access constraints. While some exceptional solutions were found on a case-by-case to humanitarian actors transferring supplies, protection interventions (immaterial in nature) has not encountered solutions. This has impacted the ability of actors to properly analyze protection environment and report trends, violations or successful stories. OCHA informed partners that local authorities’ willingness to solve the issue and will pursue alternative interim solutions.

AP: One partner asked whether new IDPs movements were recorded from camps in Ninewa to other locations (in KRI and Federal Iraq). NPC to report back at the next meeting.

2b. Strategic Update from Central-South PWG

Anbar

- The Head of the Security Committee of Al-Qaim reported that Anbar Operations Command has cancelled the sponsorship and security coupons as requirements for accessing Al-Rutba district in order to facilitate the movement of IDPs. This may allow further movement of IDPs for returns.

- The Deputy Director of the Civil Status and Nationality Office in Al-Qaim district reports that the Nationality Department of the district is planning to stop the processing of civil IDs and nationality certificates for households from Al-Qa'im and Karabla as the Civil Status Office will begin issuing Unified Identification Cards.
- In early January, PMF have taken control of 5 checkpoints in east Anbar (near Saqlawia, Halabsa, Garma, Al Moadafeen and Al Soqor checkpoints enroute to Fallujah) from ISF and 1 checkpoint in west Anbar (near Al Obaidy enroute to Qaim). While this has not had any significant impact on activities in the field, it has limited movements of partner staff to urban locations of displacement, particularly in east Anbar. The situation remains fluid.

Salah al-Din

- The inter-cluster mission to Al Karama camp was cancelled in mid-January due to the ongoing security situation. A mission is yet to be re-scheduled. In the meantime, authorities in the camp have imposed a new layer in the sponsorship process for IDPs to depart—this includes providing a letter to the security committee to request departure, which must include the names of the individual family and which must be signed by the Sheikh Al-Asheera of Tribe, Mukhtar, Municipality and Mayor's Office (Qaim-Maqamiyah). It is unclear why this additional layer has been added.
- IDPs in Al Karama must be accompanied by a member of the security forces to access health care outside of the camp. Due to low numbers of available sponsors, IDPs have had to wait long periods to access outside health care. Between 15-19 December 2019, an Iraqi merchant visited AK camp and donated 60,000 IQD to each HH. This was the merchant's second donation to IDPs in-camp, following an earlier contribution of 25,000 IQD to each family. Partners report that the merchant has no affiliation with government or security actors.
- As a result of recent security incidents in some districts of Salah al-Din, there has been an increase in military checkpoints and intensive security measures have been applied by the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) on the movement of vehicles and individuals mainly in Samarra, Balad and Yathrib. The PMF have conducted vehicle searches as well as searched mobile devices for photos, comments and/or video clips criticizing the PMF. This has negatively impacted returns within Salah al-Din as well as limited movements of partner staff located in the field, in turn affecting the implementation of humanitarian activities negatively.
- Partners have reported PMF in areas of Salah al-Din, including Baiji and Tel abu Jared, have asked humanitarian staff for their nationality, including whether they are US nationals or work with US nationals. **All partners are reminded to share any issue regarding access incidents with OCHA and the Access Working Group.**

Kirkuk

- Leylan 2 was consolidated into Leylan 1. 465 HHs (2529 individuals) were moved to Leylan 1 camp. 39 HHs returned to their areas of origin, mostly to Hawija and Kirkuk City. 5 HHs departed without informing camp management. Protection actors working in Leylan 2 camp have indicated to the Kirkuk PWG that they intend to shift their activities into Leylan 1 camp. The Kirkuk PWG is working with camp management to ensure that partners have space and movement in Leylan 1 and to ensure that interventions are harmonized and coordinated appropriately to avoid duplication and gaps.

Diyala

- Following the 3 December visits in which approximately 550 HHs (the majority of whom have been displaced since 2014) returned to their areas of origin in Saadiya sub-district to survey the damage to their homes and living conditions, including available services, a majority of IDPs have returned to displacement, specifically within Khanaquin, Jalawla, Baquba and Kalar.
- The Diyala PWG in conjunction with UNHCR and partners have mapped almost 50 villages within the area to better understand living conditions, including levels of shelter and housing destruction and potential presence of unexploded ordinances. This information has been shared with OCHA for further discussion at coordination level within the governorate, including the GCM and GRC.

2c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster

- The GBV SC rolled out the revised Coordination Handbook on Coordinating GBV in emergencies and enhanced coordination among GBV SC leads and co-leads at central and field levels, as well as with key government actors. In consultation with GBV WG leads and co-leads at field levels as well as with key government actors, the GBV SC work plan for 2020 was developed while reflecting on key GBV trends and priorities identified in 2019.
- Service mappings are updated by the GBV partners, as well as the referral pathways in Erbil and Diyala. In other governorates, actors are still consolidating the service mappings as of interventions confirmed for 2020.

- In Ninewa, there are gaps in GBV service provision in Hatara, Telafar and Ba'aj cities. Safety planning training for case workers/managers was requested by GBV actors since there is no Women shelter in Ninewa.
- GBV Service Delivery points in Diyala, Salah Al-Din, Anbar, and Baghdad are functional and providing GBV services.
- A total of 270 Dignity Kits were distributed to the Women and Girls in the Child-Bearing Age in Salah Al-Din.
- More than 1000 IDPs families in Samarra from rural areas of Samarra and Balad villages are getting limited assistance from international organizations. There is a need to provide legal support to many of these families.
- There is limited Child Protection interventions in Diyala.
- There is a lack of GBV services in the retaken areas in Diyala (Al-Adheem, Jalawlaa, and Saadiya Subdistricts), as well as in Al-Khalis, Muqdadia District and Saad camp in Baquba.
- Iraqi Al Amal started provision of GBV case management in Yahyawa camp and Daquq in Kirkuk to fill GBV gaps.
- DoH officially opened the CMR unit in Kirkuk with support from UNFPA in Nasr hospital.
- IRW opened their new center in Faqilaq neighborhood inside Kirkuk to provide GBV services for women and men.
- Increase of child marriage in Kirkuk and harassment incidents at schools especially among the adolescents. There is a need to increase awareness raising sessions.

2d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster

- **New staff announcement: Mustafa Hassan**, Global CP AoR Rapid Response Team has completed the deployment in Iraq, he remains as the Middle East regional focal point from the Global CP AoR team. **Nawres Mahmood** has joined CP sub-cluster team as a Co-coordinator contributed by SCI. Nawres used to be a resource person in rolling out CP Minimum Standards, and she speaks Kurdish, Arabic and English.
- **2020 Annual work plan for CPSC:** CPSC SAG met on 18 December and agreed on the priority initiatives in 2020. They are: continuation of Child Survivor Initiative; CP Minimum Standards (2019) roll out and Localization capacity building. CP sub-cluster has started looking at transition plan and would like to invest in National NGO / government capacity building in coordination. There will be a continuous work in CPIMS+ roll out to KRI and Federal Iraq, and minimum training package for community-based group was suggested during HRP workshop.
- **Localization kick-off workshop:** On 22 January, CPSC will be hosting half a day workshop together with SAG members and CPWG coordinators on localization / transition workshop. Global CP AoR together with Save the Children International has a global capacity building on localization, based on the draft competency framework. CPSC is currently working on the "Localization dashboard" to measure the benchmark of localization, tracking NNGO and government achievements and funding level separately from INGOs/ UN agencies.
- **Child Safeguarding Policy and implementation plan:** As announced many times, CP sub cluster agreed to adopt Child Safeguarding policy and implementation as a minimum cluster membership criteria. We have circulated the link to a kobo tool, which only takes 5 mins - so far 41 organizations responded, but we have 59 members reporting to AI in 2019. If you have not completed the survey, but would like to be considered as a member to CPSC, please do let CPSC know. We also plan to roll out the Child Safeguarding Training in Basra on 29-30 January which was postponed since October.
- **PSS module follow-up:** It's been a while we have not organized the joint capacity building for endorsed PSS module, and also following up on the use of common evaluation tools. If your organization would like to use endorsed PSS modules, need training, would like to use common evaluation tools, please do let CPSC know.

2e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster

- **Access:** Many of the MASC members were on stand down because of the current access issues since December 2019.
- The MASC coordinator had a meeting with the national authorities (Directorate of mine Action) in Baghdad in December 2019. The purpose of the meetings was to
 - Update on the current work of the MASC,
 - The data analysis and the Humanitarian Needs Overview process
 - The Humanitarian Response Plan and the prioritized districts for 2020
 - The coordination with other clusters
 - The possibility of having Iraq as a pilot candidate for joint work of IOM and UNMAS on including Mine Action in the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).
 - Referral issues and reporting mine contamination or incidents and following up on emergency response
- **Accreditation of Mine Action Organization:** DDG has received registration and is operational again as of this week; DCA changed its statute to comply with the DNGO requirements for registration.

- **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. Moreover, all are also encouraged to contact the MASC at 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'.

2f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster

- As result of intensive efforts, work and advocacy of HLP SC and its partners, finally Iraqi parliament issued the second amendments of the compensation law. The law (**called law 2 of 2020**) has been already published in the formal-official newspaper-gazette. The draft law which was submitted to Iraqi Council of Representative of Iraqi Parliament intends to decentralize the workload of the compensation committee and improve the services for the beneficiaries to access compensation scheme.
 - Main changes in the new law in regard to property related issues are: There will be three Central Compensation Committees instead of one as previously. One of the Central Committee will be established in Kurdistan also, while the other two committees will be based in Baghdad. A Sub-committee will be established per each governorate and for the war affected governorate will be three sub-committees, instead of one as it was previously. The appealing duration against the first instance decision (sub-committee decision) has been extended from 30 days to 60 days. This will give enough time to lawyers and beneficiaries to appeal if they wish to challenge first instance decision. The compensation for home furniture which exceed 300.00 IQD will be submitted by sub-committee to head of appeal court of the respective governorate to be approved and then will be submitted to Ministry of Finance for disbursement to beneficiary.
 - The previous Central Compensation Committee members have been replaced by the government and new Compensation Committee members have been appointed. HLP SC and its partners already initiated contacts with the new committee members and the SC expects to have a meeting soon and start regular coordination with new committee members.
 - With the new amendments of the law, particularly after establishment of new Central Committees and Sub-committees there will be many challenges ahead. However, the HLP SC will discuss with partners on how we can support them. In this regard, workshops and trainings for Central Compensation and Sub-committees are planned already and to support them on case management and simplify compensation mechanism for filing compensation claims as per new amendments of the law.
 - In Tuz district (SAD), HLP SC partner held a meeting with Compensation Sub-committee and agreed that lawyers from JC will be accredited as official attorney to provide legal assistance to support compensation claim cases of the marginalized groups in the compensation sub-committee. In addition, the partner will be providing transport assistance so they can more easily file the compensation claims.
 - In Tuz district, it has been reported by HLP partner that there are still hundreds of families who are afraid to submit compensation claim due to violence and fear that can be targeted by any other group. Our partner is planning to undertake all necessary security and administrative measures to support these families. However, support from other partners, such as protection partners, is highly needed and appreciated to provide support to our partner in Tuz.
- AP: HLP SC to further investigate why some people in SAD are afraid of even filling compensation claims. HLP SC to collect information through its partners in SAD and to provide further information at the next NPC meeting so that reasons behind this can be further discussed and addressed.**

2h. Updates from NPC

- **Presentation on 2020 NPC HRP:** The HRP envelope amounts to 519M USD in total. Donor's interest in funding the HRP is decreasing as the response is transitioning to recovery and development. The revised amount asked

by the NPC as a whole, i.e. including the different sub-clusters, now amounts to 151M USD. Following the HCT decision to move to activity-based costing (ABC) for the 2020 HRP, implementation of the coordinated humanitarian response in Iraq will no longer be based on projects submitted through the HPC Tools Projects Module (former OPS). Development and funding of projects will be between partners and current or potential donors, while clusters will be concentrating on providing coordination, technical and strategic guidance and support to the overall activities in order to meet the strategic priorities outlined in the HRP. Given the move to activity-based costing, OCHA will not be managing a project repository (OPS/Projects Module). Partners and donors submit reports on funding provided to partners on FTS clearly indicating if funding was provided towards the HRP or not. The NPC has developed and shared with partners a guidance note, which presents the NPC strategy for the HRP 2020, including population figures, objectives and response. **The NPC strongly recommends partners to adhere to its HRP strategy illustrated in this document. At the same time, given the strong evidence base of the 2020 Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the clear targets and priorities outlined in the HRP, donors are highly encouraged to ensure that they are/will be funding projects that align with the 2020 NPC HRP Strategy and live up to NPC standards.** The NPC remains at the disposal of partners for further assistance and support.

- **Common Framework:** The '*Common Framework for Defining Humanitarian Engagement When Humanitarian and Protection Concerns Are Present*' is currently being discussed at the HCT, but has not been endorsed yet. The Framework and its annexes are being presented for information because of the strategic importance of the issue. However, the documents will be shared only if and when they are endorsed by the HCT, so as to avoid confusion among partners. The Framework would be used on an *ad hoc* basis and only for sites characterized by critical issues.
- The purpose of the Framework is to define how humanitarian actors would engage in sites where humanitarian principles are at risk of being compromised and where there are some serious human rights violations. The Framework applies to camps, informal settlements and transit sites. Based on the gravity of the concerns, an analysis of the context analysis and a do no harm assessment the concerned sites would be categorized as either green (full cluster package of assistance), orange (minimum package of assistance) or red (no assistance apart from specific activities which would avoid causing harm).
- The Framework is based on a 3-steps process: 1) inter-cluster assessment mission, 2) ICCG review and recommendation for decision by the HCT 3) communication of the decision to partners and implementation. CwC will have to be mainstreamed throughout the assessment and implementation phases to avoid confusion and negative perceptions by the affected population. The status of the site would be reviewed by the ICCG and HCT on a monthly basis.
- All clusters have developed a matrix of activities that specify for all three type of sites and for all 3 levels, i.e. green, orange and red, which activities and services should be provided, based on a review of the criticality and feasibility of activities in such contexts. The NPC – including all sub-clusters – produced this matrix based on the activities included in the HRP 2020. The matrix of activities was endorsed by the SAG.
- The NPC also developed a guidance note on do no harm to support the ICCG and HCT in analyzing the possible risks and unintended consequences of the decision. The document covers six key issues: the core humanitarian principles (humanity, impartiality, independence, neutrality), do no harm and rights-based approach. The document includes a series of key questions as well as recommendations for different scenarios. It was also endorsed by the SAG.
- The Framework, the matrix of activities and the guidance note on do no harm have been shared with the ICCG and are now being discussed at the HCT. If the HCT does endorse them, further discussion will take place with partners in due time about the implementation of this framework in relation to specific sites.
- **Cash for protection:** The NPC is coordinating an *ad hoc* group involving partners implementing cash for protection activities. This is not a new working group, rather an informal forum where partners, the NPC and the CWG can discuss priorities and need for support. The first meeting was held in December 2019 and the following action points were agreed upon: 1) NPC to develop some guidelines on cash for protection to clarify definition, objectives and modalities 2) NPC to develop some programme resources to support the evaluation of the protection impact of cash for protection 3) NPC and CWC with support of CCI to develop a system for referrals between protection and MPCA actors 4) NPC and CWG to explore the feasibility of conducting a services market assessment to support the standardization of direct payments to service providers 5) CWG to train protection actors on the key concepts and modalities of cash-based interventions 6) NPC to develop some guidance on the specific implementation of data protection standards to cash for protection. The draft guidelines under action point 1) are being developed by the NPC and CWG and will be shared with partners by the end of January. The next meeting will be called thereafter to review and finalize the guidelines as a first step.

3. AOB

- **Services Advisor Platform:** NPC partners are kindly reminded to update their services in the Platform as it serves as service mapping tool of the NPC. Organisations who would like to join the Platform are kindly requested to contact the NPC Coordinators and NPC IMO for support.
- **ActivityInfo 2020:** OCHA is finalizing the new AI Platform and will roll out trainings across Iraq; the NPC will inform partners on the schedule of the trainings and roll out additional trainings for protection partners. More info to be shared in due course, together with the NPC guidance note on how to report protection activities.
- **MHPSS WG Protection Focal Point:** NPC members are kindly reminded to share their EoI for the position of protection cluster focal point in the MHPSS WG. Deadline is 27 January 2020.
- The next NPC meeting will be on 13 February 2020.