



**National Protection Cluster
Minutes of Meeting (12.02.20)**

Locations: UNHCR Baghdad, Ned Colt Erbil, plus Webex
Chaired by: Yannick Creoff (NPC Co-coordinator)

1. Review of Action Points from 16th January meeting
2. Strategic & Thematic Updates:
 - a. Strategic Update from Ninewa / KR-I PWGs
 - b. Strategic Update from C/S PWGs
 - c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster
 - d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster
 - e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster
 - f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster
 - g. Update from NPC – Update on the ‘Common Framework’; Visit of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs; Coordination with the MHPSS WG
3. AOB
 - Presentation of the research ‘*Factors influencing misconduct reporting in Saladin and Nineveh*’ by Oxfam
 - Presentation of the research ‘*When Affordability matters. The political economy and economic decision-making of Iraqi IDPs*’ by Social Inquiry

1. Review of Action Points from 16.01.20 meeting

<p>NPC to report back on the issue of security clearance and procedures for readmission to IDPs camps in Sulaymaniyah</p>	<p>In process: NPC is coordinating with PWGs in Sulaymaniyah and Ninewa regarding restrictions imposed by authorities on the readmission into camps of IDPs who had previously left the camps. Governors of both governorates asked humanitarian actors to provide guidance on this issue. NPC is consulting with the Global Protection Cluster and, in coordination with the CCCM cluster, will produce some brief guidelines.</p>
<p>NPC to report back on IDP movements from camps in Ninewa to other locations in KRI and Federal Iraq</p>	<p>Done: NPC provided the updated figures: 145 HH/619 individuals arrived in East Mosul camps from July to December 2019. 78% of the arrivals are female-headed households. August, September and October 2019 registered 95% of arrivals due to camp closure. Few arrivals took place in November/December.</p>
<p>HLP sub-cluster to report back on the reasons why some people in SAD are reluctant to file compensation claims with the compensation sub-committee</p>	<p>Done: HLP SC assessed the situation with partners and identified the following issues as the main reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discriminative practices from compensation sub-committees in Tuz/SAD based on ethnic and sectarian affiliations. Claims from specific ethnic/sectarian groups, in particular Kurds and Turkman, and not registered or processed effectively. - Deteriorated security situation which prevents the population from approaching the compensation office to submit their claims. - Logistical challenges related to distance and cost of transportation between Tuz and Tikrit which act as barriers. - Long, complicated and expensive administrative procedures for the processing of claims by the compensation committee office. Lack of human resources at compensation sub-committee offices. - Lack of responses or delayed responses from the compensation office on the status of the claims submitted <p>HLP SC determined that the following interventions are required to address the issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased number of Protection officers/Lawyers Tuz and in Tikrit to provide legal assistance services to file claims to the compensation sub-committees. - Transportation services/resources to transport beneficiaries from their area to the compensation sub-committees to submit their compensation claims. <p>Action Point: UNHCR and HLP SC to meet bilaterally to discuss the possibility of organizing mobile missions to support the submission of HLP compensation claims.</p>

The minutes were adopted without amendments.

2a. Strategic Update from KRI & Ninewa PWG

Ninewa

- Access to civil documentation: Partners continue to highlight specific challenges faced by populations in certain areas, such as Sinjar and Tilkaif. For Sinjar, some population groups have noted facing challenges to obtain the stamp from Mayor based in Domiz (Dohuk). For Tilkaif, challenges remain for population groups that are register with the Civil Affair Directorates (CAD) of Sheikhan and Sumel.
- Authorities in Ninewa have indicated additional internal measures that could support people obtaining civil documentation. Discussed practices would support people who did not engage directly in hostilities to obtain civil documentation, although not suspend security clearance practices.
- Mobile registration activities have started in Salamiyah camp. Despite some challenges at the beginning, over 170 individuals received National Certificate and 200 Civil IDs were issued in the first rounds. The project will continue in Salamiyah camp, then expanded to Hammam Al Alil camp and subsequently to Jeddah camps. There are also additional 700 cases to be submitted for CAD consideration.
- A NPWG member continue to support the rehabilitation of CADs. The Sinjar one was recently opened (although partners did not have information on the status of its operationalization) and soon the Bertalla one will be open. Additional offices are going to be supported and information on the opening to be shared with partners. Finally, partners inquired whether there is a mapping of the CAD offices currently operational (and comparison to pre-conflict structures) and requested Ninewa Legal Partners to work on such a document.
- Situation in camps: People without documentation continue to report challenges to move freely in out-of-camp areas, resulting in continued self-imposed restrictions of movement. In Jeddah, families from Salah al-Din and newly-arrived families continue to lack certain types of assistance due to the fact that they are not able to (re-) register into the camp with Camp Management. The ability of camp managers to admit and register new families in camps across Ninewa is being discussed with relevant stakeholders.

KRI

- The protection environment in KRI remains relatively stable.

Disputed territory

- Authorities from Ninewa and KRG confirmed that an agreement has been reached to allow the return of IDPs from some of the disputed areas, including Hasansham villages. The agreement includes several conditions necessary prior to returns. Allegedly, three quarters of the conditions in the agreement lies with Ninewa authorities, which once fulfilled would trigger action by KRG authorities. One of the conditions reportedly being that the Ninewa Governor is to guarantee that the returnees will not pose a security threat to the Kurdish families in the area and also KRI in general. Ninewa Governor is to come up with the return plan, but to date the planning process has not been initiated. Humanitarian actors are ready to support those who voluntarily wish to return.

2b. Strategic Update from Central-South PWG

Anbar

- In January, armed security actors from Anbar Operations Command (AOC) entered AAF camp to arrest an IDP. Though they had a warrant, the civilian violation of camp was shared with camp management partner IOM and reported in the NPC civilian violation of the humanitarian character of camp matrix. Camp management informed partners in-camp that they do not have the capacity to stop ISF from accessing camp, including armed actors.
- Military actors from AOC continue to arbitrarily impose arbitrary restrictions on IDP movement in and out of camp when accessing outside services.

Babil

- On 11 February, the Babil MoMD announced that they will begin to formally register returnees to the governorate after an order issued from the Minister of MoMD in Baghdad. The registration is primarily targeted at IDPs originating from north Babil, specifically IDPs from Jurf-al-Sakhar and Eskandariya sub-district. According to Babil MoMD, IDPs will be allowed to return to the governorate but not to the aforementioned areas of origin, which remain under the occupation of military and security actors. HHs will be allowed to decide where they settle within the governorate, and there will be no deadline for registration for return to Babil as a returnee. According to the Babil MoMD, 8,500 HHs originating from Jurf-al-Sakhar, Al-Musayab District, in Babil Governorate are registered as displaced across Anbar, Baghdad, Erbil, Kerbala, Najaf and Sulaymaniyah Governorates. Most HHs have been displaced since 2015 when extremist groups took control of the area.

Baghdad:

- On 5 February an inter-agency mission of members of the Baghdad General Coordination Meeting (GCM), including the Anbar/Baghdad Protection Working Group, visited Al-Shams informal settlement in Abu Ghraib, Baghdad following information from the Baghdad Governor's office that Baghdad Operations Command (BOC) would forcibly evict IDP residents by 16 February. The private land owner where the site is located has expressed desire to resume construction of a building. Baghdad authorities reported that IDPs resident in Al Shams would be allowed to move to Al-Ahl Camp, Abu Ghraib, Baghdad 6 km away. Following meetings with IDPs, GCM members shared concerns regarding the 350 students who would need to leave school if evicted, and issues regarding lack of infrastructure at Al-Ahl for all HHs, among other protection concerns. Most households originate from West Anbar, including Qaim, Fallujah, Heet and Ana, and cannot return due to shelter damage and the presence of extremist groups along the Iraqi-Syrian border. Authorities agreed to postpone evictions until an intentions survey can be carried out and presented to authorities at the next Baghdad GRC meeting.

Salah al-Din:

- Returns to Al Senya sub-district, Baiji district, resumed on 5 February for unknown reasons following a suspension of two months. As of 5 February, 100 HHs returned from areas across Salah al-Din and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Returns have occurred following obtaining of security clearances from the main PMF checkpoint at the entrance to Al Senya.
- Returns to southern Salah al-Din have decreased due to the security context. In Yathrib sub-district, Balad district, Al Abasia checkpoint remains closed. PMF checkpoints remain on the alert as attacks by ISIL in the eastern part of the governorate continue.

Kirkuk

- At the 5 February Kirkuk GRC meeting, Kirkuk authorities expressed intentions to return all 407 IDP HHs (2,317+ individuals) originating from Salah al-Din currently resident in Laylan camp to their governorate of origin. Following an intentions survey wherein 95 per cent of HHs reported they were unwilling to return to Salah al-Din voluntarily, the authorities stated that 21 HHs who reported they would be willing to return in the survey would be transported. On 9 February, authorities reported that the returns would not go ahead as the 21 HHs changed their minds and expressed concern to return. Salah al-Din authorities did not share information regarding their intentions for IDPs displaced in Kirkuk, including whether they would be sent to Al Karama camp or allowed freedom of movement. Scaling up of infrastructure would be necessary to accommodate all HHs in Al Karama.

2c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster

- **Staff announcement:** GBV Sub Cluster Coordinator Nicia El Dannawi has left the mission. Currently Elizabeth Kigen, GBVIMS Coordinator, and Rofand Khalaf, GBV SC IMO, are filling in in the interim, pending recruitment of Nicia's replacement.
- **Safety Audit Tools for IDP Camps:** With WASH, Shelter/NFI, CCM Cluster, GBV Sub Cluster developed the three tools for the Focus Group Discussions, Observation and Key Information Interview. The tools went through rounds of revisions, the next step is translation and development of the IM tools. The tools will be pilot tested in U2 in Hassansham Camp. The next meeting will be on 25th February for further discussions on the modality of the safety audit.
- **GBVIMS Capacity Assessment:** Following expressions of interest for GBVIMS roll out last year, we received expressions of interest from NGOs requesting to be considered for the roll out. The potential Data Gathering Organizations (DGOs) either expressed interest or were recommended by other DGOs or GBV WG chairs in their respective governorates or their funding agencies. GBC SC is currently conducting the capacity assessment of potential DGOs and is hoping to finalize the process by the end of February.
- **Trainings on Activity Info:** Together with other Sub-Clusters IMOs, the GBV Sub Cluster will roll out the trainings on Activity Info at the Governorate level. We encourage all GBV Sub Cluster members to register for the trainings. The deadline for registration is 14th February.

2d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster

- **Staff announcement:** Megan Wieczorek has joined the CP sub-cluster team as a Roving coordinator contributed by RedR as a stand-by partner. Megan has good experience in cluster coordination in both coordinator and IM capacity, worked in Kenya, Ethiopia, cross boarder coordination to Syria.

- **CPWGs:** Anbar/ Baghdad CPWG now has two co-coordinators, Hussain Abdullah (BROB) and Ali Mashkur (SSORD), the group met on 6 Feb, and the meeting will continue on a monthly basis. Salah-al-Din CPWG and Ninewa CPWG are opening expression of interest for the co-leads positions.
- **Localization capacity building:** Following up from 22 January, CPSC will be hosting a one week contextualization workshop together with SAG members and CPWG coordinators on coordination competency framework. Cat Bryne, Save the Children's project coordinator for localization will be visiting Iraq between 6- 19 March 2020. The government co-lead of CPWGs and National NGO co-leads of CPWGs will be our main target group. The aim is to develop an individual capacity development plan based on the contextualized competency framework.
- **CPIMS+ roll out in KRI:** CPSC team met with MoLSA KRI in January, and they recommit in the CP Information Management System+ (CPIMS+). Building on the pilot roll out in Dohuk, which has 2500 cases in the system, Data Protection Impact Assessment of DoSA and MoLSA KRI, and NGO partners, are preparing for the scale up.
- **Juvenile Justice actors coordination meeting:** CPSC started to receive inquiries for "who does what and where" questions related to Juvenile Justice, as well as on advocacy efforts which need to be harmonized. Case Management WG plans to host back to back coordination meetings on 25 Feb (Tue). If any of the Protection legal actors who are working on Juvenile Justice is intered, please do join the meeting. We will ask partner to fill in the project sheet ahead of time to map out the updated presence.

2e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster

- **MASC updates:** The MASC has a new IMO, Ms. Ghadah Zeyad Khalaf, supported by iMMAP, who started in January 2020. The IMO is providing information management services to all MASC members particularly maps and overview of explosive ordinance contamination level. MASC Coordinator attended the 23rd National Directors and UN advisors meeting in Geneva. The meeting brought together various mine action stakeholders including UN agencies, national authorities, NGOs, commercial companies, academia and donors. MASC Coordinator had the chance to meet with donors and discussed the Humanitarian Response Plan and the support required to enhance mine action activities in Iraq. MASC is working with the Health Cluster to boost collaboration on victim assistance and address the needs.
- **Access:** Mine Action Sub-Cluster coordinator attended a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Health and the General Director of Mine Action with other mine action stakeholders including humanitarian NGOs and commercial firms. This meeting discussed the access issues and the steps taken by the Ministry in collaboration with DNGO to ensure the facilitation of movement letters to all mine action operators. The Deputy Minister informed that all operators would require a movement letter approved by a committee within the DNGO. The access issues are still challenging and causing operations suspension in various locations of Iraq.
- **Gender Task Force:** As part of the UNMAS efforts to enhance and support the capacity of national mine action authorities in Iraq and particularly in developing gender- mainstreamed response to EO contamination problem, a Gender Task Force was established in collaboration with Directorate of Mine Action and Iraq Kurdistan Mine Action Agency. The Gender Task Force will compose of representatives from key organizations and governmental entities to provide advice and guidance to both national mine action authorities to integrate the gender dimension within their own activities. The MASC has nominated one focal point from the members to be represented in this work and to address gender issues across all mine action activities.

2f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster

- **Compensation guidelines:** Due to the second amendment of the law on compensation (Law 20 of 2009), HLP SC together with HLP partners has conducted an initial assessment to map all the changes and to see the impact of the amendments in the field/governorates in regard to the submission, reception and management of the compensation claims and whether there will be new procedures in each governorate. In this regard, to provide more clarity on the above, HLP SC started to update and adopt the compensation guidelines as per the new amendment of the law. The SC will produce simplified guidelines so that HLP and non-HLP partners can gain an understanding of the compensation scheme and the procedures for filing the claims with compensation committees for each governorate.
- **Shelter:** HLP SC is working with shelter cluster and its partners to find a solution on how to support beneficiaries who have no ownership documentation. This is due to challenges faced in the field by shelter partners to verify ownership over houses which are planned to be rehabilitated. In this regard, HLP SC is in the process of drafting a new guideline/brochure on the tenure system in Iraq. The guideline will help shelter partners to understand the tenure system in Iraq and to find solutions related to ownership for the beneficiaries and how to secure their tenure rights.

- **Compensation Committees:** After the replacement of the Central Compensation Committee, the HLP SC was informed that the Head of compensation sub-committee in Ninewa (Judge) and the manager have been replaced. HLP SC has initiated contacts with both and in the meetings they confirmed their readiness to collaborate and provide support with regards to compensation related issues.

2h. Updates from NPC

- **Common Framework:** The '*Common Framework for Defining Humanitarian Engagement When Humanitarian and Protection Concerns Are Present*' has been presented and discussed at the HCT. The initial decision was to change the level orange from 'minimum assistance' to 'limited assistance' and the red level from 'no assistance' to 'minimum assistance' because the HCT does not support or anticipate a situation whereby no assistance would be provided at a specific site. An *ad hoc* meeting between HCT members was subsequently held to further discuss this topic. The overall position is that the Common Framework and the associated matrix of activities are deemed too rigid and will therefore not be endorsed. Instead, the HCT prefers the '*Do no harm guidance note*' and requested for the document to be expanded to include mitigation measures for identified risks and scenarios. The NPC will further develop this tool, which will be re-submitted at the next HCT for endorsement.
- **Al Karama:** The ICCG mission was conducted on 26 January. The final report with key findings and recommendations was endorsed by the ICCG and submitted to the HCT. The report notes that AK camp does not function as a detention site since the camp population can access the nearby village (but not Tikrit), therefore the humanitarian character of the camp is confirmed. The mission also assessed that reducing or stopping humanitarian assistance would cause harm to the camp population because it would increase the severity of needs, increase protection risks (notably through the use of negative coping mechanisms) and further stigmatize the camp population and undermine the prospects of durable solutions. For these reasons, the mission recommended to classify the site as 'green' and to increase level of assistance across all sectors. However, the classification of the site as 'green' should not be misinterpreted. Protection issues remain severe, including restrictions on freedom of movement, restrictions on access to civil documentation, confiscation of documents and limited access to sponsorship. The key recommendations from the NPC include 1) organization of mobile missions with the MoI to issue expired/missing civil documents, 2) community-based activities in AoO to support social coexistence/reconciliation, 3) continued advocacy at the national and governorate level to address the structural issues of freedom of movement, security clearance and civil documentation and 4) continued advocacy with the authorities in SAD to ease the sponsorship process.
Action point: NPC to share the ICCG report through the SAD PWG once it has been approved by the HCT.
- **Special Rapporteur on the Rights of IDPs:** The special Rapporteur will visit Iraq from 15th to 23rd of February, accompanied by the coordinator of the Global Protection Cluster. The SR will meet high-level government authorities in both Federal Iraq and in KRI, as well as a wide range of stakeholders including the HCT, donors, heads of agencies, NCCI, etc. The SR and the GPC coordinator will visit both camps and informal settlements in Ninewa (Jeddah camp, settlement in west Mosul), Dohuk (Chamisko camp) and Erbil (Hassan Sham camp). The NPC and the sub-clusters will meet the SR and the GPC Coordinator on 18th February. The NPC prepared some talking points to facilitate the engagement of the SR with the authorities. The main advocacy messages relate to the issues of security clearance, civil documentation, freedom of movement, social discrimination, as well as social cohesion and durable solutions.
- **Coordination with MHPSS WG:** Qanea Lashkri, MHPSS Specialist with Intersos, has been nominated as the new Focal Point of the NPC for the MHPSS WG. The role of the FP is to represent the NPC at the MHPSS WG and to facilitate exchange of information between the two forums. Possibly in coordination with UNHCR and IMC, IOM will provide a training on MHPSS to protection partners, with the objective of enhancing the understanding of MHPSS activities, standards and requirements among protection partners who implement PSS programmes. These series of training will specifically target professionals who are responsible for the design of PSS interventions, rather than case workers. Two trainings will be organized in Erbil and Baghdad in March-April (dates to be confirmed). In preparation, the NPC will organize an *ad hoc* meeting with protection partners who are implementing PSS activities to discuss what should be the topics and focus of the training. The date of this *ad hoc* meeting will be confirmed at a later date.

3. AOB

- **Oxfam presentation:** Oxfam presented the key findings of its research '*Factors Influencing Misconduct Reporting in Saladin and Nineveh*'. The report was circulated prior to the meeting. For specific inquiry on the findings of this research, partners may contact Oxfam directly. Contact person: Alaa Kassim, Oxfam Protection Coordinator, AKassim1@oxfam.org.uk.
- **Social Inquiry presentation:** The presentation was cancelled.
- The next NPC meeting will be on 12th March.