



National Protection Cluster

Minutes of Meeting (12 December 2019)

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 17.10.19 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 – Update on Update on 2020 HRP, Update on Follow Up Calls Initiative - Protection Analysis, Update on new AAP/CwC Task Force**
3. **AOB**
 - a. **REACH presentation on the MCNA**
 - b. **IMMAP presentation**

1. Review of Action Points from 17.10.19 meeting

No previous action points.	
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Minutes adopted without amendments.

2a. Strategic Update from KRI & Ninewa PWG

Kurdistan Region of Iraq

- Protection environment and response remain relatively stable across the three governorates. However, numbers gathered by CCCM Cluster continue to highlight extremely low to no admission in Sulaymaniyah camps. Protection partners have identified isolated cases where vulnerable cases were not admitted into camps and humanitarian actors are currently triangulating information available and discussing possible avenues to address potential barriers.

Ninewa

- **Camp closures/consolidations and related movements:** As evidenced in the different tracking tools in places, although movements out of camps continue, the pace reduced since the last meeting. According to authorities, Jeddah camps will remain opened while an extension of additional four to six months was granted to the closure of Hammam Al Alil and Salamiyah camps respectively¹. Partners continue to report cases of denial of returns to some families, particularly due to perceived or real affiliation to people engaging in extremist activities. Interviews with key informants in some of the districts in Ninewa have highlighted concerns of possible grounds for social tensions related to movement of individuals from camps. This is particularly relevant in areas of Sinjar, Al Hamdaniyah, and TilKaif, and to a lesser degree in Tel Afar.
- **Salah al-Din families:** On 25 November, security forces informed Jeddah camps residents originally from Salah al-Din that they had three days to leave the camp or face relocation to Al-Karama camp. While a non-confirmed number of Salah al-Din IDPs left the camp, numerous families reported lacking financial means to move to other areas or area of origin, as well as insufficient time to process security arrangements required to return to those locations. Families have been granted the ability to remain in the camp but there are concerns over the ability of these families to continue receiving assistance. Humanitarian actors are currently advocating for the non-discrimination.

Legal assistance challenges

- In Ninewa, partners continue to report challenges related to the implementation of the Court of Appeal decision, including risks faces by layers and legal aid workers in assisting individuals and pursuing feedback on

¹ Humanitarians have already received official communication approving the extension of Salamiyah. Although informal assurances were given, formal communication on Hammam Al Alil is pending. Humanitarians continue to advocate for the extension to be of equal six months.

the decision. Humanitarian actors are now pursuing additional advocacy avenues and test cases. The upcoming mobile documentation mission to Hammam Al Alil will also provide an opportunity to test potential cases. The Mobile documentation mission is also confirmed for early 2020 in Salamiyah camp and under discussion for Jeddah camps.

- In Dohuk, beneficiaries have reported feeling discriminated when seeking court services, with perceptions that priority is given to members of host communities. In response, authorities have indicated that challenges to access court relate primarily to capacity considering the large backlog.

2b. Strategic Update from Central-South PWG

Anbar

- The Anbar Governor's Adviser for IDPs reported that the National Reconciliation Commission, Anbar local authorities, community leaders and security forces in coordination with UNDP were able to conclude a reconciliation between the community in Baghdadi sub-district in Heet and 40 IDP families still living in IDPs camps.
- The civilian and humanitarian character of AAF camp continues to deteriorate with at least 4 arrests conducted by AOC reported from November to December. No arrest warrants were provided and, in two of the cases, camp managers were asked to provide lists of IDPs before military actors entered the camp. One individual that was arrested had cease investigation letters, noting that they had been arrested and investigated previously. One individual that was arrested had a letter stating he had the same name as another IDP in the security database. In addition to arrests, subsequent confiscation of civil documentation of affected family members has been reported. Reports of confiscation of civil documentation of at least 2 female IDPs with a perceived affiliation have also been reported.
- Following the Anbar GRC last week in Baghdad, at least 5 more camps within AAF have been slated for consolidation in agreement with the Governor's Advisor. The Anbar PWG has provided analysis for the families living in these camps, particularly those originating from Jurf al Sukr and Saqlawiyah, highlighting that these families need a solution if the camps are to close as they cannot return.
- At least two UN agencies reported difficulties for national staff accessing AAF camp in the first week of December with AOC actors asking about activities and informing staff they should have letters from joint operations to move freely within camp, despite this usually being provided by ISF escorts for UN missions and not for private cars used by national staff.
- Due to the ongoing situation in the Centre/South, mobile missions for issuance of civil documentation in AAF and HTC will begin in January; the missions are expected to last 20 days for both camps.

Salah al-Din

- The conditions in Al Karama camp remain the same regarding restrictions on freedom of movement, access to civil documentation and sponsorship. Out of the 31 Households resident in-camp before forced returns from Ninewa camps in August and September, 13 are from Al Shahama camp which closed in January 2019. IDPs in Al Shahama, which is directly adjacent to Al Karama, were also under restrictions on movement, access to documentation and sponsorship.
- At the last HCT meeting, the Humanitarian Coordinator stated that a decision regarding implementation of minimum levels of assistance was never communicated by the HCT to the humanitarian community and thus levels of assistance in-camp should be like that in any other camp. It is noted by the Protection Cluster that lack of a clearly communicated decision has caused confusion among humanitarian actors and among IDPs, who have told protection actors that they feel punished by the humanitarian community for their perceived affiliation.
- An inter cluster mission was meant to commence on 11 December but was cancelled last minute due to lack of a NOC letter. In the meantime, partners have reported barbed wire and installation of a police tower. Protection partners have enquired with CCCM and security actors, but no conclusion has been reached due to the cancellation of the inter-agency mission. The mission will commence in January.
- Recent weather and floods in Al Karama have led to concerns regarding lack of preparation for winter. Drainage canals have been flooded with mud and rubbish, resulting in exposed electrical wires and pools of water leading to physical protection hazards for IDPs. Shelter Cluster, CCCM Cluster and UNHCR are working together to provide winterization and to find solutions to these issues. On 10 December, UNHCR distributed 220 NFIs to residents in-camp.

Diyala

- After taking a survey of Diyala PWG members, the PWG decided to establish a legal partners group for the governorate. Kirkuk, Anbar and Salah al-Din have active legal networks. Diyala legal partners will hold their first meeting in January, and the group will fall under the umbrella of the Diyala PWG.

- On December 3rd, approximately 550 families returned to Saadiya Sub-District from displacement within Diyala, specifically Khanaquin, Jalawla, Baquba and Kalar. Families had not been able to access Saadiya due to lack of security clearance, continued PMF occupation, tribal issues and ethnic disputes. It is unclear why large numbers of families were suddenly cleared by the authorities to return- the Diyala PWG is finding more information.
- Saadiya Sub-district is one of the most complex in the Governorate given its history of ethnic tensions and remains the only location in Diyala with a “Provincial Representative” appointed by the Governor to coordinate delivery of basic services. It faces a significant lack of health services, infrastructure and livelihood opportunities. A majority of families originate from the city centre, in addition to surrounding villages of Asakra, Bani Weiss and Asiriyah. Over 60 per cent of homes in Asiriyah are destroyed and there is a lack of water and no access to hospital services due to presence of PMF. To access healthcare, families must rent a vehicle and drive to hospital in Jalawla.
- Only 20 HHs are reported to have remained in Saadiya sub-district after this “go and see”; the majority reportedly returned to displacement to close their displacement files and so children can finish the school year. One of the main reasons for closure of their displaced file is to return to obtain government benefits to begin rebuilding—though whether this is the MoMD grant or something else remains unclear.
- It remains to be determined whether these HHs would be allowed to return in large numbers given political tension in the Governorate and whether basic services will be provided by authorities.

2c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster

Achievements

- GBV partners conducted activities related to the 16-days of Activism against GBV in the different governorates across Iraq.
- The GBV Sub-Cluster with the support of the GBV AOR conducted a 5-day workshop in early December to support in enhancing coordination among GBV Sub-Cluster leads and co-leads at central and field levels as well as representatives from key government actors, and to support the development of GBV Sub-Cluster work plan for 2020 while reflecting on key GBV trends and priorities identified in 2019.

Challenges/Needs/Gaps

- Gaps in GBV service provision gaps in Hatara, Telafar and Ba'aj have been identified.

2d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster

- **CPIMS+ roll out plan:** CP case management actors piloted CPIMS+ (online CP case management platform) in Dohuk. To date 80 users from six organizations including DoLSA Dohuk are using CPIMS+. CMWG members will be laying out the roll out plan to the rest of KRI and Federal Iraq. The specific meeting dedicated to the roll out plan will be held on 16 Dec.
- **CPSC Annual work plan and Case Management WG 2020:** CPSC and Case Management WG started to review the 2019 annual workplan and work on 2020 annual workplan. Strategic Advisory group plans to meet on 18 Dec to discuss the prioritization, then the plan will be shared to CPSC members for the review.
- **Trainings in December:** Caring for Child Survivor training will be held between 15-19 Dec in Erbil for Ninewa and Federal Iraq case management agencies. Training on Case Management forms for Federal Iraq case management actors will be held in Erbil between 22-24 Dec, and case management training for Federal Iraq case management actors will be held in January 2020.

2e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster

- **Access:** Several MASC members have experienced access issues and suspended their operations because their JCMC letters have expired. The MASC collected the information about these access issues. UNMAS has informed the UN leadership of the access issues some MASC members were facing as a result of the changes in leadership of the NOC and JCMC. UNMAS emphasized on the humanitarian and safety consequences for civilians resulting of mine action organizations not being able to conduct clearance activities, particularly in liberated areas and advocated that the UN leadership raise that issue with relevant GoI authorities.
- **MASC update:** UNMAS has been working with IOM to include Mine Action in the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). The DTM is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility, provide critical information to decision-makers and responders during crises, and contribute to better understanding of population flows. The DTM is used by a number of humanitarian clusters as a source of information on humanitarian needs. MASC started consulting with the Directorate of Mine Action Planning and Information Management Section to enquire about their interest to use this tool in Iraq and also requested provide feedback/comments about the draft questions included.

- **Mine Action Portfolio:** Every year the process of the Mine Action Portfolio (MAP) in coordination with the national authorities started in November. The MAP is an online resource for all MA projects, viewed by all donors, GoI, policy makers and service providers that allows them to view the current status for MA in Iraq, in addition to project proposals and the current funding status. For this year the UNMAS headquarter informed the field programmes that the process of the Mine Action portfolio will be paused in 2020 to conduct a comprehensive review of the MAP process and how it can be more efficiently or usefully produced and used for resource mobilization purposes.
- **Risk Education for Humanitarian workers:** Mine Action AoR would like to highlight the importance of attending EO awareness sessions to humanitarian workers. An incident was reported through one of the Humanitarian NGOs in Anbar during their WASH activities. Mine Action members are ready to provide these sessions if requested. For your information iMMAP is conducting awareness session next week in addition UNMAS is providing awareness sessions on monthly basis and the invitation is usually sent through the Protection Cluster.
- **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 <https://www.ncciraq.org/en/>

2f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster

- **Access:** Due to delays on issuance of JCMC letter HLP partners reported field access challenges to provide HLP services.
- **Awareness-raising activities:** As per the decision taken in the last HLP SC meeting related to the gaps on the HLP awareness raising to returnees and IDPs, HLP partners in mid-November and December has delivered 16 workshops and awareness raising session to inform mix-gender audience on housing, land and property rights as well the informing them about services that partners can offer to support their HLP rights.
- **Key issues in Salah Al-Din:** The following HLP issues has been reported by partner in Salah Al-Din:
 - 1) Letters to obtain security clearance for beneficiaries in SAD are still being referred to Baghdad and this is causing delays. So far it has been reported that 10 thousand requests have been send to Baghdad but no response received so far.
 - 2) Compensation offices in Tooz, SAD stopped receiving claims because of high number of property disputes and secondary occupations. Therefore, from now all claims will be received from Sub-compensation Committees in SAD only.
 - 3) In addition, it has been reported that in Yethrib and Balad there high needs for HLP support, especially legal support for compensation.
- To address the above-mentioned issues, HLP partner in Salah Al-Din, particularly HLP legal teams held meeting with Director of Compensation sub-committee to discuss how legal teams could support compensation subcommittee and beneficiaries to file compensation claims. Initially it was agreed to establish a mobile legal team to fill up the gap and provide HLP services for returnees and IDPs.
- **Global updates:** On December HLP AOR Geneva organized a webinar with all HLP coordinators and working groups existing in the missions, to share experiences and best practices related to housing, land a property, particularly on compensation and restitution mechanism. HLP SC Iraq was asked to give a presentation about HLP in Iraq, highlighting the best practices, experiences and challenges in Iraq. Colleagues from other countries were very interested to understand the HLP issues and compensation scheme in Iraq.
- HLP SC Co-Coordinator attended a two days conference “The Arab Land Initiative” in Cairo. The Arab Land Initiative was established in 2016 to address some of the key land governance challenges faced by the Arab states. The attendees has worked in the planning the implementation of the 3 year “Arab region programme on good land governance in support to inclusive development, peace and stability”, which has the overall objective to improve the capacity of regional and national stakeholders to manage and administer urban, peri-urban and rural land in the Arab States.

2h. Updates from NPC

- **HRP 2020:** The HRP envelope amounts to 519M USD in total, lower than the 2019’s HRP of 701M USD. Donor’s interest in funding the HRP is decreasing as the response is transitioning to recovery and development. The main rationale is that activities which are not strictly humanitarian should be funded through other funding streams. 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.

AP: NPC to provide an update at the next NPC meeting on the HRP 2020.

Camp departure follow-up survey – Analysis of Protection Concerns

- **Background:** The NPC has expanded the analysis of the follow-up calls² done in collaboration with CCCM Cluster and Iraq Information Center to also cover additional protection concerns. A complementary dashboard with the results of the analysis can [HERE](#) or on the [National Protection Cluster website](#) allowing for the disaggregation of data by a range of variable, including geographical area, demographics etc. Of notice is that, while the overall dashboard is only represented at district level, protection concerns are represented at sub-district level. PWGs should review the dashboards on a regular basis to identify any key trends or gaps that may have arisen and determine whether or not partners in the area need to adapt their type of interventions or geographical coverage
- **Key findings:** About 34% of respondents reported that their movement was involuntary, although this used to be as high as 40% at the beginning of the survey as it reflected the forced evictions that took place as a result of camp closures and consolidations. About 38% of the responded reported engaging in secondary displacement. The proportion of persons with missing documentation (7%) is much lower than in other assessments which may indicate that having civil documents played a key factor in enabling these HHs to make the decision to leave camps. Main documents missed include Civil ID, Nationality Certificate and PDS. Similarly, 7% of the respondents reported feeling unsafe in the destination area, due to the presence of militias in the nearby area, the absence of security forces and community tensions respectively. People lacking civil documentation tend to fear more insecure than those with civil ID. About 20% of the persons report fear of eviction, primarily linked to the inability to pay rent. Lack of financial means is also corroborated by the two main negative coping mechanisms reported, i.e. selling of HH assets and assistance, respectively.
- **CwC/AAP WG:** The Terms of Reference for the CwC/AAP WG to fall under the ICCG will be finalized COB today, 12 December. Membership of the group will consist of ICCG members, the PSEA Network, the IDP Call Centre and the Community Resource Centres, with others invited on a thematic basis. The first meeting will be held in January 2020.

3. AOB

- **REACH presentation:** REACH presented the key findings of the Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA) round 7, as they relate to protection, including GP, PSS, HLP, MA, CP and GBV. CP SC questioned the conclusion that girls were the most vulnerable group as most of the cases of child detention and child labor relate to boys. The detailed findings of the MCNA can be found in the presentation attached.
- **IMMAP presentation:** IMMAP presented the various type of services and resources it can provide to the members of the cluster, as they related to risk education and information management in particular. The detailed information about IMMAP services and support can be found in the attached presentation.

² For more details on the overall dashboard and process, please see the Minutes of the NPC meeting dated 14 November 2019, available on <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/iraq/document/20191114npcmom>.