



National Protection Cluster

Minutes of Meeting (12 April 2018)

Locations: UNHCR Baghdad, UNHCR Erbil, plus Webex
Chaired by: Claudia Nicoletti (NPC Coordinator)

1. Review of Action Points from 15 March meeting

2. Strategic & Thematic Updates:

- a. Strategic Update from KR-I PWG
- b. Strategic Update from C/S PWG
- 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. Strategic Update from CwC Task Force
- h. Update from NPC – Governorate Return Committees update/Anbar, KBYG messaging and Guidance, Survey monkey to NPC partners informing the C/S PWGs meeting
- i. Update from RPA mechanism

3. AOB

1. Review of Action Points from 15 March meeting

Action Points	Update/Follow-up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KRI PWG Coordinator to compile lessons learnt from Erbil & Dohuk PWGs – on protection considerations during camp consolidation and closure - to be shared with NPC. 	<p><u>Ongoing.</u> Inputs received from Erbil, inputs from Dohuk pending. Once finalized, it will be shared with NPC & CCCM Cluster.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPC requested to engage with legal partners working on detention to decide on the need for and scope of dedicated coordination mechanism for legal assistance related to detention. 	<p><u>Ongoing.</u> NPC will work on the draft of Detention Guidance/SOPs for its partners in May. NPC is now working on its strategy.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPC to circulate the final HCT Elections Guidance Note with minutes of 15 March NPC meeting. NPC to share its Operational Election Guidance Note for protection partners, focusing on protection response, as soon as it is finalized. 	<p><u>Completed.</u> Final HCT Elections Guidance Note was circulated with 15 March NPC minutes. <u>Ongoing.</u> The NPC Operational Elections Guidance Note for protection partners is under finalization. SAG members have been asked to comment on the document. Awaiting inputs.</p>

Minutes adopted without amendments.

2a. Strategic Update from KRI & Ninewa PWG

- The pace of returns of IDPs hosted in camps in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) has been largely stable in the first quarter of 2018. The majority of IDP families in camps in Erbil and Dohuk governorates do not currently intend to return to their areas of origin, and cite the unsafe situation and absence of services in their area of origin, and occupied or damaged/destroyed housing, as the main impediments for return. In March, there was a spike in returns from Garmawa camp in Ninewa Governorate, where 193 families obtained the security clearance after continued advocacy efforts by protection actors in Dohuk since October 2017.
- Key concerns related to returns from KRI refer to the sustainability of these return movements. Whereas lack of livelihood opportunities in the Hamdaniya camps accounts for the major push factor for IDPs to return to their areas of origin, financial and economic reasons and limited livelihood options are the main reasons why families still arrive into the camps. In the last week of March alone, out of 104 newly arriving families in Hamdaniya camps, there were 39 families who were re-displaced back to camps from their areas of origin. Erbil PWG continues work with EJCC to advocate with Kurdish authorities to lift the ban on returns to 11 villages in disputed areas adjacent to the east camps. UNHCR Erbil and its protection partners conducted an intention survey amongst the 400 families from these villages and 95% intend to return as soon as the ban is lifted.

- **Ninewa:** Return movements have accelerated throughout March across Ninewa Governorate to Telafar city (some 9,500 families, majority returning from Najaf), Baaj sub-district (some 600 families to Baaj city and 5,000 families to the villages) and to Hatra sub-district (200-300 families). The significant scale up of civilian authorities' presence in Telafar city in March, including the re-establishment of the MoMD and Civil Directorate offices, was identified as a contributing factor increasing returns. At the same time, some groups of IDPs originating from these areas, e.g. IDPs from Telafar currently in Nimrud camp, report that they do not currently intend to return, quoting such reasons as ethnic / sectarian tensions or fear of armed actors. Given the accelerated pace of returns to Baaj, Hatra and Telafar, NPWG have been reaching out to the Mine Action sub-cluster to organize MRE sessions in Ninewa camps hosting IDPs originating from these areas of return. MRE sessions have already been organized in the Airstrip camp and still need to be conducted in Salamiya, Hajj Ali and Jeddah camps.

AP: Mine Action Sub-Cluster to coordinate with its partners to organize MRE sessions in the Ninewa camps with high populations of IDPs originating from Baaj, Telafar and Hatra (in coordination with Ninewa PWG).

- On 27 March, MoMD in west Mosul city denied registration to returnees from Qayyara camps, claiming that they did not have proper documentation confirming their displacement. Protection partners negotiated that a revised camp management letter would be accepted and camp managers can be contacted to verify if the family had been displaced. In parallel, MoMD has been pressuring camp managers in Ninewa to share personal data of returning families – so far successfully held off by referring MoMD to the CCCM Guidance Note on data sharing requests. Barred returns based on perceived affiliation of families with extremist groups as well as other forms of collective punishment have been documented for IDPs originating from Old Mosul, Baaj, Telafar and Bartallah. Protection partners continue to advocate with the EJCC to lift the ban on returns to 11 villages in disputed areas adjacent to Hamdaniya camps (95% of surveyed IDPs families from these villages want to return as soon as the ban is lifted).
- *Other protection concerns:* **Dohuk:** Access to Northern Ninewa from KRI has been restricted since October 2017 with the presence of both KRG-SF and ISF around Mahmoodia village. As a result, no movement of good or civilians is allowed. This is particularly impacting IDPs and returnees who used this checkpoint to maintain linkages with their areas of origin, conduct go and see visits and maintain family links. It is all the more concerning, given the recent development in Sinjar, as families who may need to seek safety and protection into KRI - if the situation in Northern Ninewa further deteriorates - would not be able to do so.

AP: KRI PWG to follow up on MHPSS TF in Dohuk (status and meetings etc.) and provide updates at the next NPC meeting.

- **Erbil:** Recent Handicap International report highlights the gap in information about the number and needs of persons with disabilities among the humanitarian community in Iraq, which makes it hard for humanitarian actors to develop appropriate inclusive responses. As funding decreases or shifts to highly prioritised areas, persons with disabilities, notably those in IDPs camps where services have become scarcer, face greater difficulties accessing protection and humanitarian assistance, which further compounds their vulnerabilities (e.g. as of end of April, specialized services for some 1200 persons with disabilities will no longer be provided in Hamdaniya camps).
- **All KRI:** Protection partners report IDPs' apprehension about the lack of clarity on the MoE Baghdad decision regarding the closure of IDP schools in KRI and its timeline, which may influence their return intentions. As protection and education partners on the ground keep monitoring the situation, further advocacy at the higher level is needed.
- **Ninewa:** Despite the Prime Minister Office directive on "Maintaining the civilian character of camps" of 3 April 2017, protection partners have been documenting incidents related to the presence of military and armed security actors in the camps such as sexual harassment of IDP women and girls, shooting incidents, diversion of humanitarian assistance, detention and disappearance, recruitment activities inside the camps, pressure by security actors to share sensitive registration data without IDPs' consent, threat of forced return, physical and verbal abuse of IDPs, extortion, restriction on freedom of movement and ID confiscation. At the same time, humanitarian staff working in the camps have repeatedly been subject to intimidation and harassment by armed actors. With support of camp management, protection partners have been raising these incident with the armed actors at the local level. Many of these interventions have not been successful, hence partners continue to elevate the incidents through OCHA, CCCM and Protection Clusters requesting high-level advocacy.

2b. Strategic Update from C/S PWG

- **Baghdad:** Forced returns have continued in Baghdad where a total of 112 IDP families originally from Al-Qa'im in Anbar were forcibly returned from (Al- Kasnazaniya) Al-Salam/Al Takia camp in Baghdad. Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) in coordination with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) transported 83 families on 20

March and another 29 families on 27 March. A total of 72 IDP families returned by their own to their areas of origin from Al-Nabi, Younis, Al-Ahal, Al-Shams camps in Baghdad.

- **Anbar:** Since 19 March, 117 IDP families have departed Habbiniya Tourist City (HTC) camp and 121 families left Ameriyat al-Fallujah camps, and returned to Al-Qa'im. In the last couple of day, there were 40 additional departures from HTC camp. In the last three weeks, 174 families relocated from Falluja camp 9 to HTC camp due the camp sinking with rainwater. Some IDP families who left camps in Ninewa Governorate (Hamam Al-Alil camp and Qayyarah camp) and Salah Al-Din (Al-Shahama camp and Al-Karam camp) have been re-displaced to Kilo 18 camp, as they were barred from returning to their areas of origins in West Anbar (Albo Farraj, Al-Ta'amim) reportedly due to perceived affiliation with extremists.
- **Salah al-Din:** Due to humanitarian advocacy, upon instruction from the Governor of Salah al-Din, no evictions from Shaqlawa complex, an informal settlement on an unfinished construction site in Tikrit, will take place before the end of the school year (end of May). Accordingly, Shaqlawa complex is planned to remain open; humanitarian actors will continue to monitor the situation. More returnees are expected in West Beiji city, as more basic services are being provided in the area. More than 90% of IDP families have returned to Yathrib city. 70 IDP families staying in Al Alam sub-district in Tikrit have returned to their areas of origin (40 families to Shirqat district and 30 families to Hawiga sub-district). In East Shirqat, 12 IDPs families recently returned to Al Nahiya village and reported instances of police forces forcibly occupying their homes allegedly for military purposes.
- **Kirkuk:** The latest group of organized returns facilitated by MoMD occurred on 30 March when 159 families (899 individuals) left Laylan 2 camp mainly to Hawiga district (47 went to Khatonya village, and the remainder to Hawija city center and surrounding villages). On arrival, some families were forcibly re-displaced back to Daquq camp by pro-government armed groups.
- **Diyala:** It was reported that 350 families have returned to their homes in Jalawla sub-district in Khanaqin district, with returns being facilitated through local leaders in Muqadiyah district. It was reported that one condition for their safe return was that each family was required to have one family member join pro-government armed groups.
- **Basra:** IDPs in Basra reported receiving additional pressure from host community members urging them to return. In general, host communities are now less supportive of IDPs. For instance, some IDPs who were staying in shelters provided by the host communities for free are now being requested to pay rent, and threatened with eviction because of their inability to pay.
- Overall, the main protection risks relate to forced recruitment of individuals; HLP violations; premature returns from camps, leading to secondary displacement of IDPs back to the camps; barred returns of IDP families due to perceived affiliation with extremist groups; recruitment by pro-government armed groups as a condition for approval of returns to Diyala; forced returns from Baghdad camps.

AP: NPC and CP Sub-Cluster to check feasibility of having MRM trainings organized for interested partners working in C/S areas in light of several instances of forced recruitment, including potential child recruitment, by pro-government armed groups. Once confirmation of availability is obtained, the C/S PWG will compile a list of interested organisations/participants and share the list with CP Sub-Cluster who will liaise with MRM team.

2c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster

- GBV WGs are updating the 2018 service mapping and referral pathways. With respect to C/S areas, there are some locations where GBV actors are providing services in one place with limited population coverage; accordingly coordination among the actors to improve service coverage is being pursued.
- The roll out of GBV SOPs was completed for Erbil, Dohuk, Sulaimaniya. For C/S areas, the Arabic translation of the SOPs was finalized and the document will be circulated among C/S GBV WG members for their final review before signatures; then the roll out will take place.
- Across all governorates in Iraq, one key gap identified is the lack/limited presence of actors providing legal services to GBV survivors.
- **Sulaimaniya:** GBV Sub Cluster has identified a gap in the provision of dignity kits for beneficiaries.
- **Ninewa:** the GBV WG in Ninewa was established. It is chaired by UNFPA and co-chaired by Al Messalla. The GBV services are mostly provided in East Mosul, while huge gaps in service provision remain for West Mosul. In East Mosul, PSS services and awareness raising on GBV related issues are being provided, but there is a gap with respect to provision of legal assistance for GBV survivors.
- **Centre-South:** Karbala GBV sub-working group was established and will cover the areas of Karbala, Babylon and Najaf and report back to the C/S GBV WG. The forum is chaired by UNFPA. A few camp consolidations took place in Baghdad and Anbar; in the remaining camps, GBV actors provide PSS and GBV case management. There is a need to expand GBV services in host communities to be able to meet the needs of returnees.

- **Refugee response:** Poor living conditions in the refugee camps in KRI, coupled with the lack of income generation activities are negatively affecting women and girls. In addition, there are increasing reports of men preventing female family members from accessing women friendly spaces/centers, because humanitarian actors do not provide material support.

2d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster

- **Ninewa:** Ninewa CPWG met on 4 April for the first time. Erik Prins (Mission East) / Mohammed Qasim (Hope org) / Afrah Musa (SCI) are the new coordinators. The meeting will be held in Mosul city. Ninewa CP gap analysis will be updated for the month of April and most of the gaps identified in IDP camps in Ninewa Governorate will be filled by partners starting from April, since new projects will begin during this month.
- **PSS module & PSS TF:** Stand-alone recreational activities such as Child Friendly Space are not recommended in 2018. CP Sub-Cluster and Education Cluster are promoting the approach to integrate PSS activities in learning spaces for school age children, and in community centers for adolescent boys and girls. The CP Sub-Cluster Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) members endorsed two structured, evidence-based PSS modules: (1) DEALs module by War Child; and (2) Child and Youth Resilience program by SCI. The first roll out of SCI module will be on 6-9 May in Erbil. SAG members agreed to set up a PSS TF with 4-5 I/NGOs, who can properly plan and follow-up the roll out plan, as well as mentoring of trainers, agreed impact measurement and its tracking.
- **Case Management WG (CMWG):** The CMWG is working on the work plan for 2018. A survey was sent out to the WG members and respondents suggested to focus on reinforcing the referral pathways, alternative care and case management principles, forms and necessary case management steps. The survey also showed the need to have additional case management guidance on Child Labour, Children Associated with Armed Groups and Forces, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and Neglect at home. The members also suggested establishment of stronger links with the Cash Working Group and Emergency Livelihoods Cluster, as well as with the GBV Sub-Cluster.
- **CP Minimum Standards revision:** The “Minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action. Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) (2012)” document is currently under revision. The updated version is expected to be published in 2019. To this end, national consultations with the CP Sub-Cluster members, as well as CP Minimum Standards training are planned from mid-June to mid-August 2018.
- **CP Sub-Cluster membership criteria:** CP SAG members discussed the cases of unsafe use of social network system, including Facebook and Whatsapp, by partners and the need to raise awareness on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. The SAG members agreed to design the Inter-Agency code of conduct or CP policy, which will articulate the organizational commitment to safeguarding children and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and decided to make it as a membership criteria for all organizations who want to become members of the CP Sub-Cluster. Such requirement should not be considered as a “cut-off” criteria, but it should be seen as an opportunity to build capacity of organizations who are new to child protection interventions. The CP Sub-Cluster members will produce a draft of the document to be submitted to SAG members for their endorsement.

2e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster

- **Accreditation:** As of 4 April, the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) has provided full accreditation to operate in Iraq to Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD), Norwegian People Aid (NPA) and Mines Advisory Group (MAG). Three Humanitarian Mine Action actors are still waiting for their registration at the NGO Directorate in Baghdad. Handicap International, DCA and MYR are still waiting for their accreditation. The Mine Action Sub-Cluster has prepared a new brief on issues affecting mine action implementers in Iraq that will be issued shortly.
- **Update on access issues in Salah al-Din:** In the previous months, even with all the necessary documentation obtained, individual checkpoints regularly refuse to accept the validity of the PMNOC letter and the movement authority that the letter is supposed to guarantee. The most challenging checkpoints are the ones manned by PMF; reportedly over the last two weeks of March, Mine Action partners were denied access 8 out of 10 times, in particular within the Baiji area. Following extensive advocacy from the humanitarian community, in the last 10 days no access issues were reported in Baiji. In the area, Mine Action partners are providing mine risk education activities.
- **Mine Action Sub-Cluster 2018 strategy:** the Sub-Cluster has produced its own strategy for 2018. The document will be attached to the NPC MOM.
- **Mine risk education activities:** Between 1 January to 31 March, humanitarian mine action implementers provided risk education to 156,258 civilians. 75% of the beneficiaries were children. The majority of activities were conducted in Ninewa, Anbar and Salah al-Din governorate in order of importance. In Ninewa, most

activities are taking place in Mosul City, in IDP camps and Tel Afar city. In Anbar, activities are taking place in Fallujah (Markaz Fallujah and Amiriya) and Ramadi (Habbaniya) districts, in IDP camps, public spaces and schools. In Salah al-Din, activities are implemented in the area of Baiji.

- Survey and Clearance: As for survey and clearance operations in the last three months, humanitarian mine action implementers have surveyed and cleared approximately 22 million square meter (approximately 16.8 million square meter in Qayyarah, sub district of Mosul, and 500,000 square meter in Mosul city).

AP: NPC to share Mine Action 2018 Strategy and AoR email to all partners together with NPC minutes of meeting.

2f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster

- Across Iraq there is an ongoing need for HLP assistance in areas of return, including assistance with respect to dispute resolution over cases of secondary occupation, HLP documentation, facilitation of compensation claims, and awareness raising for vulnerable populations on their HLP rights and available services and redress mechanisms.
- Update on Compensation mechanism: In the past months, HLP actors investigated the different compensation mechanisms that have been established in Iraq. A briefing paper on compensation mechanisms will be finalized and shared with partners by the end of April. The report will cover the governorates of Ninewa, Anbar, Diyala, and Salah al-Din. Based on preliminary information gathered by partners, but not yet verified by legal professionals, the compensation process in Anbar, Salah al-Din and Diyala is the following. The compensation for damaged houses is a two-step process: (1) *Courts*: The claimant needs to go to the investigation court, with a copy of the Ownership deed (Tapu); clear photos of the damaged house (low resolution pictures are usually rejected); and proof that the damage has been done by an extremist group, or during the military operation (this is proving to be difficult for claimants, as there are no clear guidelines on how to prove the cause of damage). In cases where the owner is deceased, the claimant should provide an inheritance deed, plus their civil documentation proving their relation to the deceased owner; (2) *Compensation Committees*: The court would then ask the police for a background check on the claimant in order to check for any ISIL links. When the police clear the claimant from any links, the claimant takes the investigation court's report to the Compensation Committee that verifies the application, the background of the claimant, and the level of damage. At this stage, the Committee provides the claimant with a reference number that s/he will use in the future once the financial allocations are available for disbursement. However, *several challenges have been noted*: (1) in **Anbar**, there are destroyed houses that have been built on state-owned land that are therefore considered as trespassed state property. Examples of this can be found in the Almel'ab neighborhood, near the railway at Al Ramadi city. In addition, there are also houses that have been built on farmlands, in contravention of the law. These houses have no official title deeds (Tapu), and as a result vulnerable households are in a position where they cannot file for compensation, as they have never owned any property title deeds; (2) in **Salah al-Din**, several houses have been secondarily occupied by displaced families. To solve a secondary occupation case, the legal owner would have to file a lawsuit at the civil court in the area where the house is located, and there are several areas in the governorate that are inaccessible to individuals due to tribal issues and restrictions. As a result, it is nearly impossible for the claimant to reach the civil court around his property. In addition, in the areas Al Seeniya and Al Jazeera, there are many houses that were made of clay and built on lands that were not owned by anyone, and have never owned any property title deeds (Tapu). As a result, occupants are not entitled to file for compensation due to the absence of a Tapu; (3) in **Diyala**, the situation is similar to Anbar in terms of destroyed houses being built on state-owned land and farmlands, and there are many cases of secondary occupation of houses by displaced families. In addition, many houses have more than one owner listed on the property title deed (siblings, heirs, partners). According to Iraqi law, all individuals who are listed on the property title deed are entitled for compensation; nevertheless, in reality only one of the individuals would have been living in the damaged house, and in order to file for compensation, all individuals listed on the title deed need to be present to sign on the claim, which is highly problematic in most cases.
- The next HLP Sub-Cluster meeting will be held during the first week of May.
- The new HLP Sub-Cluster Coordinator (UN-HABITAT) is Mr. Muslim Qazimi; he can be reached at muslim.qazimi@un.org and 0750 831 1691.

2g. Strategic Update from CwC Task Force

- CWC TF meeting took place on 27 March. Besides the monthly updates from partners, a concern was raised by some organisations regarding water and food-borne illnesses that recently arose in some IDP camps. SOPs on messages during outbreaks need to be drafted and coordination among CwC Task Force and relevant clusters should be increased. Printing materials for raising awareness on measles is ongoing.

- CCCM organized a Fire Prevention Workshop in Erbil on 4 April. CWC related activities were explained and one of the agreed action points was to collect tools being used in the three Governorates, including CwC materials for creating a Dropbox folder to facilitate access to the existing tools/materials and avoid duplications on the fire prevention activities.
- CwC TF is planning to share the experience of Dohuk CCCM on establishing Fire Warden through community outreach volunteers and community focal points with Erbil CwC TF members.

2g. Update from NPC

- *Governorate Return Committees (GRCs) update:* On 2 April, a letter was addressed to all the Governors from the Government authorities for establishing the return committees in their governorates. Recent information indicates that the GRCs will be established in Anbar, Salah al-Din, Ninewa, Baghdad, Kirkuk and possibly Basra. An initial courtesy meeting was held on 8 April in **Anbar** with participation of OCHA, UN agency and NGO members of the Anbar GRC, as well as MoMD, the Anbar Governor, JCMC and the PM's Office. At the meeting, the GoI reiterated its commitment to ensuring that returns are voluntary and to convene follow-up technical meetings of concerned stakeholders. OCHA will be convening a national level meeting of all UN agency and NGO partners who are members of the GRCs, in the beginning of May. NPC is finalizing the content of Principled Returns workshops to be delivered with each of the GRCs at governorate-level (in English and Arabic), including participation by government authorities. CCCM Cluster is convening workshops with GRCs in Baghdad (most likely next week) to familiarize them with CCCM modalities, information products/tools with respect to camp consolidation and closure.
- *Know Before You Go (KBYG) messaging and Guidance:* In 2017, the Return Working Group (RWG) and the CWC TF of the NPC developed key return messages, based on the principle that IDPs have and will continue to use their existing social networks to gather information on conditions in their areas of origin (i.e. on security related issues, availability of essential items and basic services, etc.). In addition, it is important to recognize that humanitarian partners do not always possess accurate and up-to-date information on conditions in areas of origin, because such information is constantly changing. Disseminating inaccurate and outdated information that can influence IDPs' decision-making on when and whether to return, has the potential to do more harm than good. The KBYG messages were pilot tested in KRI in 2017 and have been updated in early 2018; a guidance note on how to use them is under finalization; the CWC TF is about to start working on translation of the messages and the graphic design. The pilot testing will occur with C/S PWGs first and then with members later on.
- *Survey monkey to NPC partners informing the C/S PWGs meeting:* The NPC is drafting a survey monkey questionnaire that would like to administer to partners to understand their participation in NPC and PWGs meetings and identify challenges, opportunities and ways to improve coordination structure - including coordination between sub-national and governorate-level PWGs, CP Sub-WGs, GBV Sub-WGs, etc. The survey questionnaire is under finalization and will be administered by mid-May.

2i. Updates from RPA mechanism

- The new Rapid Protection Assessment (RPA) Manager is Ms. Pip Smith. She can be reached at rpa.manager@drciraq.dk / 0751 169 2708.
- Mohammad Khalaf has taken up a new position within the RPA team directly, as the RPA Technical Advisor. He has spent the last one and a half years as the Duhok RPA Focal Point, and brings to the coordination team a lot of knowledge and experience. His contact details remain the same, mohammed.khalaf@drciraq.dk / 0751 184 3658.
- There was an RPA consortium meeting on 28-29 March in Baghdad; the meeting was hosted by Kandice (former RPA manager and the RPA team to wrap up the 2017 project, discuss lessons learned, general collaboration amongst the network, and brainstorm around the 2018 strategy and ways of moving forward. Some of the key action points/recommendations that came out from the meeting are, (1) Increase presence of RPA representatives (focal points, RPA team members) in coordination *fora* (such as PWGs at a governorate level), to promote better understanding of on the ground situations and protection concerns; create more streamlined communication and coordination; (2) Improving response mechanisms, such as sharable, more concise reports (when appropriate), and increase the quality of the follow up and response mechanism to protection concerns; (3) Possible trainings to focus on humanitarian principles and principled responses to protection concerns, etc. to share minimum standards as well as good practice suggestions, based on our experiences in the field.
- There has been no RPA since the last NPC meeting (15 March);

- The RPA team will continue to work in the same five governorates in 2018 (Ninewa, Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din), with a focus on areas in west Anbar and Diyala governorates, as well as Sinjar, Tel Afar and Ba'aj city in Ninewa governorate.

AP: NPC to share with partners the minutes of the RPA meeting held in Baghdad.

3. AOB

- NPC and PWGs subscription to mailing lists: The subscription to NPC mailing list, including Sub national PWGs mailing lists, can take up to few days from the moment partners send their requests. This is because all requests have are weekly vetted by NPC and KRI and C/S PWGs coordinators to corroborate the protection profile and protection expertise of the organization. Revised PWG TORs (under finalization) reaffirm the participation of operational partners only to Sub-National PWGs and area-specific PWGs; whereas NPC meetings can be attended by all protection partners, as well as representatives of the donor community and private entities.
- Elections Contingency Plan: OCHA is currently gathering information to develop a context analysis in consideration of the upcoming elections. OCHA has requested all Clusters to support by providing any information to strengthen the context analysis including information on potential hotspots. OCHA will facilitate the process by drafting the context analysis that will be shared with the ICCG members for their discussion on scenarios and development of the response plans, as necessary.
- Syrians without work permit in Federal Iraq: UNHCR has been made aware of the challenges faced by certain Syrian nationals employed by NGOs working in Ninewa governorate; UNHCR would request these NGOs to provide additional information about the visa and documentation status of their Syrian employees, the registration of the NGOs for whom they are working and their status as refugees and/or asylum-seekers in order to assess the legal options available to them, for (i) legal stay and (ii) ability to work legally in Iraq. As the different legal options are being assessed, due consideration should be given to key refugee protection principles, such as the principle of *non-refoulement* and confidentiality and informed consent, if involving authorities of the country of origin, including representations abroad.

AP: NPC to inform partners about UNHCR approach, and request affected NGOs to provide UNHCR with the required information to pursue.

- The new CP Sub-Cluster Co-coordinator is Mr. Geoffrey Kirenga; he can be reached at Geoffrey.Kirenga@savethechildren.org.
- Next NPC meeting to be held on 17 May 2018.