



## National Protection Cluster

### Minutes of Meeting (17 May 2018)

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

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

#### 1. Review of Action Points from 12 April 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 updates; Assessment Registry; elections incidents updates
- i. Update from RPA mechanism

#### 3. AOB

#### 1. Review of Action Points from 12 April meeting

Action Points	Update/Follow-up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KRI PWG Coordinator to compile lessons learnt from Erbil &amp; Dohuk PWGs – on protection considerations during camp consolidation and closure - to be shared with NPC.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Ongoing.</u> Inputs received from Erbil, inputs from Dohuk pending. Once finalized, it will be shared with NPC &amp; CCCM Cluster.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>• NPC to share its Guidance note on operational issues during the 2018 Council of Representatives elections in Iraq for protection partners, focusing on protection response, as soon as it is finalized.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Completed.</u> The note was shared on 30 April.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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).</li> </ul>	<p><u>Completed.</u> Risk education will be provided by UNICEF around the camps locations. Request to the Directorate of Mine Action to task accredited partners to provide RE in the camps has been done. UNMAS conducted an explosive hazard assessment mission to Baaj to determine the level of contamination. Clearance operations of public space and residence currently conducted by ISF. Relatively low level of contamination compared to other locations. Risk education sessions will be provided to returnees in Tel Afar by NGOs once movement letters are obtained.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KRI PWG to follow up on MHPSS TF in Dohuk (status and meetings etc.) and provide updates at the next NPC meeting.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Completed.</u> Dohuk PWG held a meeting with MHPSS focal point within DOH Dohuk. MHPSS WG is already operational at Dohuk level, led by DOH. The working group is reaching out to NGO partners to identify a co-lead. NPC requested to contact the Health Cluster to strengthen the capacity of the existing MHPSS WG in Dohuk.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Ongoing.</u> A list of interested partners was compiled and shared with MRM/UNICEF colleagues for their follow up re: organization of the trainings.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPC to share Mine Action 2018 Strategy and AoR email to all partners together with NPC minutes of meeting.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Completed.</u> However, NPC will share again AoR email with the minutes of this meeting.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPC to share with partners the minutes of the RPA meeting held in Baghdad.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Completed.</u> Minutes of RPA meeting were shared with last month's NPC meeting minutes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re: Syrians without work permit in Federal Iraq, NPC to inform partners about UNHCR approach, and request affected NGOs to provide UNHCR with the required information to pursue.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Completed.</u> UNHCR remains available to engage and follow up on cases once received by interested I/NGOs and/or individual Syrians.</p>

Minutes adopted without amendments.

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

- **Erbil:** The analysis of the push factors for returns has evolved throughout the last month in Khazer / Hasansham camps. Until end of April 2018, lack of livelihoods in the camps had been indicated by IDPs as the major push factor to return to their areas of origin. Since April 2018, it has been observed that the cuts of WFP food rations have influenced IDPs decisions regarding returns, particularly among large families. Another emerging push factor quoted by the IDPs in the increasing shortage of water for cooking, drinking and personal hygiene. IDPs have been engaging in negative coping mechanisms, like breaking the camp fence in order to access the nearby river, creating risks for children (last year a few cases of children drowning in the river were reported), and threatening with launching protests in the camp. Lastly, the lack of clarity about the IDP schools closure in KRI is determined to cause growing apprehension among IDPs and some families may take premature decisions to return to their areas of origin driven by the willingness to keep their children in school in addition to other factors.  
**Action point:** NPC requested to liaise again with the Education Cluster in order to obtain latest updates on MoE plans and advocacy efforts and to agree on possible follow up actions.
- **Dohuk:** One of key gaps in protection monitoring and legal assistance has been covered through a recently funded protection project. Some 500 Iraqi returnee families from Syria were identified by protection partners in the villages around Sinune, in Ninewa Governorate. Assessment conducted by the protection partners determined that majority of them crossed the border after the territorial control changes in October 2017. The group has not yet received any assistance. Further protection analysis is needed to better understand the needs of these people and how mobilize the response in line with the “do no harm” approach given the complex ethnic and tribal dynamics in the area. Discussions are on-going about the potential revision of the NPC guidance note on provision of assistance in Sinjar from February 2016.
- **Sulemanya:** Returns from Sulemanya Governorate have been predominantly stable over 2018, with majority of IDPs returning to Diyala, Anbar and Salah al-Din governorates (including both people who fled due to extremist groups taking control over their areas of origin, as well as those who displaced after the October 2017 territorial control changes). A drop in numbers has been observed in March and April in comparison to the first two months of the year (in January/February: 3,500-4,000 individuals returned per month; in March/April: some 1,000 individuals returned per month). Since the last week of April 2018, families who faced difficulties in re-establishing their lives in the areas of origin and who decided to come back to the camps in Sulemanya Governorate have not been allowed by the authorities and security forces to register in the camps again (this does not apply to Kalar area). It was possible to facilitate registration of two families, following the advocacy by protection partners based on HH’s vulnerability. Meeting is to be held with Assayesh in Sulemanya to better understand this new practice and advocate for protective safeguards for the vulnerable IDP families.

- **Ninewa:** Presence of armed actors in the camps continues to be of major concern in Ninewa. On 24-25 April there were incursions of security actors in two camps in Southern Ninewa resulting in arrests of women and children (some detained until the day of NPC meeting), verbal and physical assault on IDPs, ID card and mobile phone confiscations, as well as allegations of sexual harassment by security actors. Camp management actors in cooperation with protection partners continue raising the issues related to civilian and humanitarian character of camps with the military and armed security actors on the ground. Incidents involving armed actors are being recorded and traced by the NPC and CCCM Cluster (in Jeddah camp, a new tool for incident reporting was introduced with the support of all partners working in the camp). High-level advocacy to re-issue the Prime Minister's Office directive of April 2017 on "*Maintaining the civilian character of camps*", as well as on introducing a mechanism to monitor its implementation, is on-going.
- On 14 May, another group of families originating from Anbar Governorate and being transported by Ministry of Transport (MoT) officials towards their areas of origin faced serious movement restrictions and had to be taken back to Hamam Al Alil transit site. There have been previous reports of IDPs or Iraqi returnees transported from Ninewa Governorate to Anbar Governorate by MoT that received misinformation about their final destination and ended up in camps with compromised protection environment, like Khalidiya (issue documented in the RPA - December 2017) or Kilo 18, rather than in their villages of origin. All protection partners in Ninewa and Anbar governorates are requested to closely monitor such movements and flag to the NPC any concerns observed.

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

- **Returns/Evictions:** Since 15 April, there were no incidents of forced returns/evictions, but mixed patterns of displacement and return continue to occur across several governorates in Centre South Iraq.
- **Baghdad/Anbar:** 230 families/738 Individuals have returned voluntarily from Baghdad, AAF camps and KRI to areas of origin in Al-Qaim city after completing the security screening at Al-Obaidi checkpoint using their private transportation; many more are reportedly planning to return after the end of the current academic year. Reverse movement from areas of return and secondary displacement continue to occur in Anbar with 50 families/235 individuals moved from Baghdad, KRI and Al-Qaim to HTC and AAF camps of Anbar using their own transportation. Lack of basic service, livelihood opportunities, and attacks from extremist groups' sleeper cells that are still present in the desert area of Anbar were the main reasons behind the movements.
- **Salah Al Din:** Since 15 April, 432 families have returned voluntarily from Baghdad, KRI, Kirkuk, and Salah al-Din to areas of origin in Salah al-Din after completing their security screening. Another 63 families have accessed their area of origin in Aziz Balad in order to verify the condition of their houses and the available services in the area, but all returned back to their previous locations, including camps, in Baghdad and Salah al-Din due to severe shelter destruction and lack of basic services. According to reports 121 families/581 individuals have reportedly moved from various areas of return and urban settings in Salah al-Din and Kirkuk to Bustan, Karama and Al-Alam camps, due to property destruction, lack of income, lack of basic services in areas of returns, as well as inability to pay for accommodation rent. **Al Diom complex:** A total number of 167 families, the majority of them from Baiji and Al Seniyah sub-district, have been requested to move out by the investor and property owner who intends to complete construction works (80% of work completed so far). IDPs cannot return to their areas of origin due to security concerns and damage of their property. 164 families have not received security clearance as of now (only 3 families were cleared for return). In recent communication between OCHA and the investor, it was agreed that the IDPs could stay in the complex until the end of Ramadan (which coincides with the end of the school year); however the eviction date was later placed on 1 June. **Return to Al Seniyah sub-district:** Out of 150 families approved for return to their place of origin, only 55 actually received the security approval. Out of this number, only 8 families have returned so far to the Al Seniyah sub-district. According to the sources on the ground, the problem arises from the conflict between different pro-government armed groups who control Baiji city now. IDPs living in internment situation at **Al Shahama** are able to leave the camp under a tightened sponsorship scheme only. Since 15 April, 12 families were allowed to leave the camp and return to their places of origin in Ninewa, Anbar and Salah Al Din governorates, while 9 families have been approved to be relocated to Hajj Ali and Jeddah camps, but are still in the camp awaiting completion of the procedure. The total population of Al-Shahama camp is 130 families/504 individuals. There are 90 families banned by their tribes to return to areas of origin (majority are from Al-Shirqat District and the rest from Baiji District) and another 10 families have not been able to find sponsors, because their missing family members were allegedly associated with extremist groups. 30 families have started their sponsorship procedures.
- **Kirkuk:** IDPs from Reyadh and Rashad sub-district of Hawiga continue to remain in displacement and are not allowed to return. The conditions for those who have returned to the villages of both districts remain precarious, with many reported incidents of evictions, eviction threats, denial of return, forced recruitment

and reprisal attacks. As of mid-May, a total of 49 families were recorded in the four IDP camps in Kirkuk Governorate perceived to have affiliation with extremists. They had been residing in Kirkuk city without obtaining security clearance or approvals for return to their areas of origin. During protection interviews, the families reported the use of force and intimidations by security forces, including confiscation of documents. Families fear that encampment would effectively deny their children access to education due to the restrictions on movement in the camps. Meanwhile, IDPs already living in the camps are reluctant to receive new IDPs (or to have them accommodated nearby), fearing stigmatization because of their perceived affiliation. Protection partners have been advocating with authorities to halt these evictions and secure freedom of movement for IDPs from the camps to Kirkuk city, in order to enable the children of evicted families to attend their school exams.

- **General Protection Updates/Concerns:** According to casualty figures recorded by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) for the month of April, Anbar was the worst affected governorate, followed by Baghdad and Kirkuk.
- **Baghdad/Anbar:** Presence of extremist sleeper pockets is still a main concern in areas of return in Anbar where 59 IEDs and UXOs were seized or deactivated during military search operations in Ramadi, Fallujah and Al-Qaim districts during the reporting period. An IED exploded in Rawa district leaving four fatalities and three injuries. During the reporting period, extremist groups disseminated threatening letters in Heet warning families from participating/voting in the parliamentary election.
- **Salah al-Din:** Extremist sleeper cells continue to be an ongoing security concern in Salah al-Din governorate. On 1 May, extremist fighters reportedly opened fire on civilians in Tarmiya town, which resulted in an unconfirmed number of casualties.
- **Kirkuk:** The hazard of remnants of war and IEDs is reported to be very high in the context of growing insurgency. The Mobile Civil Documentation team of Hawija continues facilitating the issuance of civil documents to IDPs originally from Hawija and displaced to Al-Alam camp of Salah al-Din with 3,825 civil documents issued so far. UNHCR met with the head of Civil Status Department's mobile committee to discuss documentation needs and possibility of mobile mission to provide documentation support to Hawija IDPs in Ninewa governorate.

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

- **Tailoring GBV strategies to recovery/development programming:** Considering the trend in Iraq which entails a show transition from an emergency to a recovery phase, the GBV Sub-Cluster has decided to start shaping GBV strategies to include recovery and development programming (eg., livelihood, long term behavioral change/male engagement and legal services for survivors). An example of this change in strategy is for instance the establishment of four male centers in the four refugee camps in Erbil Governorate (Darashakran, Kawergosk, Basirma & Qushtapa). In line with this strategic change, the GBV Sub-Cluster will be engaging with the Cash Working Group, the Emergency Livelihood and Food Security Clusters, as well as the MHPSS Task Force and donors.
- **Establishment of GBV Sub-Cluster Case Management WG:** the WG will be established at national level in order to help GBV survivors in a structured and coordinated manner. This will require setting up standards for good practices to improve understanding of the availability, accessibility and quality of GBV services. The main objective of the WG is to provide technical support, including the development of guidance and tools, agreed approaches and capacity building based on gaps and needs identified in the field, to organisations providing case management services to GBV survivors. The WG will draw from the Inter-Agency Gender – Based Violence Case Management Guidelines (2017), and locally agreed standard operating procedures.
- **Ninewa GBV WG:** the WG is newly established and will hold its first meeting on 22 May.
- **CP/GBV Child Survivors' Initiative:** A Child Protection/GBV Child Initiative is being piloted in Iraq by the Global GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) and Child Protection AoR. The initiative is aimed at improving the quality of and access to services for child and adolescent survivors of sexual abuse in emergencies. The areas that will be targeted will be Salah al-Din and Anbar governorates.
- **GBV Sub-Cluster/MHPSS:** Ongoing cooperation between the GBV Sub-Cluster and Health Cluster to support mental health services for GBV survivors.

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

- **Structured PSS ToT trainings in line with the harmonization of a structured approach:** Several ToTs on the model of "Save the Children - Child resilience training" were organized in English and Arabic both in Erbil and Dohuk. The English ToT was conducted in Erbil (6 – 10 May 2018); 23 participants were trained, out of 51 applicants. The Arabic ToT was conducted in Dohuk (20 – 24 May 2018); 25 participants were trained, out of

46 applicants. There are plans to organize additional sessions in Centre-South in the coming months. More information will follow in due course. With respect to the 'War child UK – DEALs' module, one ToT only was conducted in Erbil (7 – 16 May 2018). Plans for next sessions and participants' selection will be shared shortly with CP Sub-Cluster members. The CP PSS Task Force has been established to support the roll out of these trainings.

- **CP Case Management:** Primero/CP Information Management System (IMS) and its technical design are almost finalized; UNICEF will fund its implementation in Iraq. The CP IMS and related forms that will be used have been updated and translated into Kurdish and Arabic.
- **CP/GBV Child Survivors' Initiative:** A Child Protection/GBV Child Initiative is being piloted in Iraq by the Global GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) and Child Protection AoR. The initiative is aimed at improving the quality of and access to services for child and adolescent survivors of sexual abuse in emergencies. The areas that will be targeted will be Salah al-Din and Anbar governorates. Towards the end of April, members of the GBV and CP sub-clusters, especially those working in the area of case management, were taken through the structure and framework of the initiative.
- **CP Sub-Cluster and Emergency Livelihood Cluster cooperation:** Due to the continuous need for L=livelihood support to vulnerable families, the CP Sub-Cluster has started active cooperation with Emergency Livelihood Cluster to enable potential referrals of vulnerable cases.
- **Juvenile mapping:** The CP Sub-Cluster convened a meeting on 13 May with key actors working on Juvenile Justice. Participants shared their approaches and areas of operation countrywide. In order to improve coordination, it was decided that (1) participants will share their training modules and interested candidates; (2) CP Sub-Cluster will compile all the available training materials to limit/avoid duplication. CP Sub-Cluster will circulate the 5Ws format for stakeholders to fill in for purposes of mapping out activities/actors/location.
- **Child Protection Minimum Standards:** Discussions on the review and roll out are ongoing and preparations are underway.

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

- Humanity and Inclusion (HI) has agreed to co-chair with UNMAS the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (AoR) at the global level for 2018-2019. Elke Hottentot (Policy Lead, Armed Violence Reduction) has assumed the function as of April 2018 in Geneva.
- **Accreditation:** Since the last NPC in April, Halo Trust and HI have received their registration with the DNGO and HI will receive this week their operational accreditation. As of today, the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) has provided full accreditation to operate in Iraq to Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD), Norwegian People Aid (NPA), Humanity and Inclusion (HI) and Mines Advisory Group (MAG). DCA and MYR are still waiting for their accreditation.
- **Survey and Clearance Operations:** Currently clearance and survey operations are ongoing in Daquq District (Kirkuk) and in Mosul District with focus in West Mosul and Hasansham area. The Mine Action Sub-Cluster members have surveyed and cleared a total of 29 million square meter in April 2018. MAG and FSD who received their accreditation on 4 April are waiting for JCMC movement letters to re-establish clearance and risk education operations in Sinuni (Sinjar), Bardiya (Zummar), Bashiqa (Hamdaniya) and Makhmur.
- **Risk Education:** Currently risk education sessions are focusing on the Anbar Governorate and Ninewa (Mosul District). MAG recently deployed risk education teams in Telafar and Hamdaniya and will deploy risk education teams in Sinjar as soon movement letters are obtained. The Mine Action Sub-Cluster members have provided risk education to over 45,000 civilians in April 2018.
- **IDP Call Center and risk education:** On 27 May, UNMAS with their implementing partner Danish Demining Group will conduct a risk education training for the staff of the IDP Call Centre. The goal of this training is to inform the staff of standard messaging to be given to callers who inquire about explosive hazards (EH), explain the process of reporting to staff so they can report and inform callers how to report an EH and respond to any inquiries which the staff might have. We encourage all services that support returnees and IDPs affected by EH to contact the UNMAS risk education focal point (Celine Cheng [celine.cheng@unmas-iraq.org](mailto:celine.cheng@unmas-iraq.org)) for similar services. All trainings are targeted to the needs of the participants and organization.
- **Community Resource Centres (CRCs):** UNMAS has already agreed to support IOM run CRCs. A first batch of material will be delivered shortly to IOM for their use in the CRCs. Any organization with similar activities and service centres are encouraged to reach out to the UNMAS risk education focal point (Celine Cheng [celine.cheng@unmas-iraq.org](mailto:celine.cheng@unmas-iraq.org)) to discuss any kind of service.
- **Risk Education for Humanitarians:** UNMAS plans to organize bi-weekly risk education sessions geared for humanitarian organisations in the coming few weeks. This will be delivered in both Erbil and Baghdad in English. More information will be provided once these meetings are organized. For any kind of training at the field level

(Mosul, etc.) please contract an UNMAS risk education focal point (Celine Cheng [celine.cheng@unmas-iraq.org](mailto:celine.cheng@unmas-iraq.org)) to discuss the possibility.

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

- **Work Plan 2018:** The HLP Sub-Cluster held its regular meeting on 6 May with HLP partners and presented the work plan for 2018, highlighting activities by priority and setting a timeline for planned activities until the end of the year.
- **HLP Sub-Cluster Terms of Reference (TOR):** The Sub-Cluster has submitted the TOR to partners requesting their comments. Inputs were received and incorporated into the draft document; the TOR will be endorsed at next HLP Sub-Cluster meeting.
- **HLP Sub-Cluster Strategic Advisory Group (SAG):** The Sub-Cluster proposed to establish the HLP SAG; the Coordinators are working on the draft ToR of the SAG; the document will be presented at next meeting for additional inputs from partners before endorsement.
- **HLP Focal Points:** The Sub-Cluster is in the process of establishing HLP Sub-Cluster focal points at the governorate level. Several meetings have been held with different partners to request their availability to become focal points. Identification of focal points is still under finalization; once completed, necessary information will be shared with relevant partners.
- **Compensation:** The HLP Sub-Cluster is in process of creating a Compensation Information Database related to compensation scheme. The aim of this database is to track all registered compensation claims that have been filed by partners to institutions in Iraq. The questionnaire that will be utilized for this exercise will soon be shared with Government of Iraq and HLP partners.
- **Due Diligence Guidance Note:** The Sub-Cluster is working closely with the Shelter Cluster to draft an operation guidance note on the “Establishment of a minimum level of ownership for shelter actors, prior to rehabilitation, with regard to ownership of a house”. The aim of the guidance note is to identify steps that shelter actors will have to go through when planning a rehabilitation project in order to avoid conflicts within the target community or vis-a'-vis house owners.
- **HLP Trainings:** NRC/ICLA will organize trainings on HLP issues in June and July. The training will be open to all partners and relevant local institutions. Details on the trainings will be shared soon.
- HLP partners recently identified a significant number of cases in need of legal assistance for HLP issues in Kalar city, in Sulemanya governorate. There are around 50 cases of destroyed houses and 140 burned houses. One HLP partner committed to be providing legal assistance, including legal representation in courts, for approximately 100 cases, as well as legal consultation services for additional 100 cases.

## 2g. Strategic Update from CwC Task Force

- The CwC Task Force completed the graphic design and printing of the key messages on non-politicized, independent and free of charge provision of humanitarian assistance during the electoral period. Printed materials were disseminated among CwC Task Force members and partners operating both in IDPs camps and non-camp settings in KRI. The key messages were displayed in visible locations, including community centers, health facilities, etc.; and community meetings were organized with IDPs in camps.
- The CwC Task Force supported the printing of DOH key messages on measles prevention after official report of an increase in cases. The Task Force members will assist in the dissemination of the messages by mobilizing teams who will target IDPs and Refugees living in Erbil Governorate.
- The graphic design of the Know Before You Go (KBYG) key messages will be shared with the NPC for additional comments before the end of the current week; IOM will print the material and then pilot test it in Centre-South.
- The CwC Task Force is liaising with the CCCM Cluster to disseminate awareness-raising messages on the prevention on summer diseases, both in IDPs camps and non-camp settings in KRI.

## 2h. Update from NPC

- **GRC Update:** National level GRC meeting was held on 2 May in Baghdad with participation by UN/NGO members of all GRCs, Clusters and OCHA. Presentations were delivered by NPC on ‘Principled Returns and Overall Returnee Response’, by RWG on ‘Durable Solutions’ and by CCCM Cluster on ‘Camp consolidation and closure’. NPC briefed participants at the 2 May meeting on NPC data sources that will be shared with UN/NGO members of the GRCs that should inform decision-making, i.e., RPA reports in areas of origin, UNHCR’s Return Profiles in five prioritized governorates, Forced Evictions/Returns Tracking Matrix in prioritized governorates, Return Procedures Flowcharts and narratives in prioritized governorates, UNHCR protection monitoring data using Comprehensive Household Assessment Tool (CHAT). Now that elections are over, authorities will likely

convene GRCs in the coming weeks. As such OCHA-led preparatory meetings will likely take place next week for the GRCs in Anbar & Salah al-Din.

- **Assessments Update:** NPC and all Sub-Clusters have compiled info on: their existing data sources on needs of affected populations; any challenges with the quality of the such needs data and/or gaps in geographic coverage of such data; and plans to strengthen the quality or geographic reach of existing needs data sources in anticipation of the HNO 2019, to ensure that it is more evidence based. In addition, NPC and Sub-Clusters have inputted into a Common Database of Indicators (CDI) - at household and community level - that will be shared with partners next week. This way if partners are planning specialized protection assessments, or multi-sectoral assessments, they can consult the CDI to find a list of standardized indicators, questions and responses options. If these are used consistently by all partners, then we will have needs data that will be comparable from one partner or location to another. Lastly, OCHA's Assessment Registry was introduced. Partners are requested to share the reports for any assessment that they have completed with the NPC or Sub-Cluster IMOs, who will upload the assessments into the Assessment Registry. For any protection assessments that contain sensitive data that partners do not feel comfortable uploading onto the Assessment Registry, partners should still submit the following info that can be uploaded onto the Assessment Registry without the actual report: organizational name and contact, topic of assessment, location of assessment, date of assessment, which will be uploaded onto the Assessment Registry. This way all partners are aware if other partners have already conducted an assessment on a particular topic or in a particular geographic area, before they start planning their own assessments, in order to avoid duplication and waste of resources. Partners can ask NPC or Sub-Clusters to facilitate access to assessment reports that are not uploaded on the Assessment Registry.
- **Elections Update:** During the month of April, NPC shared the following documents with partners: (1) HCT Note on Iraq's parliamentary elections and the protection of displaced voters; (2) CCCM Guidance on the position of the CCCM Cluster vis-a-vis CCCM actors' engagement in support of IDPs' participation in the electoral process; (3) NPC guidance note on operational issues during the 2018 Council of Representatives elections in Iraq; (4) NPC's Election Incidents Tracking Matrix. The Matrix was used by our partners to document a wide range of incidents, which were channeled by partners to governorate-level PWGs, who then forwarded the issues to Governorate Electoral Offices. PWGs also copied NPC in, so that if there were serious violations, then NPC forwarded them to UNAMI Electoral Assistance Office (UNAMI EAO) in Baghdad, who ultimately channeled them to IHEC in Baghdad. At the same time, UNHCR was invited by UNCT to participate in an 'Elections Cell' in Baghdad on 12 May (election day); and thus NPC enjoyed a direct conduit to the Elections Cell for live reporting. In total there were: 40 incidents reported in Ninewa Governorate; 9 incidents reported in Anbar Governorate; 5 incidents reported in Salah al-Din Governorate; 5 incidents reported in Sulemanya Governorate; 4 incidents reported in Diyala Governorate; 1 incident reported in Baghdad Governorate. The significantly higher level of reporting from Ninewa is related to the higher number of humanitarian protection/CCCM partners present there, and does not imply that the electoral process was smoother in other governorates. We received no reports from Kirkuk Governorate due to major election-related security restrictions by UN and NGO partners. In fact, most humanitarian actors scaled down their field presence as extremist groups had issued threats of targeting polling stations. Nonetheless, we managed to gather at some highly relevant data on violations by various actors - local NGOs, armed security actors, election candidates, IHEC officials - and channel it to relevant stakeholders, including UNAMI EAO, IHEC and key donors with political influence.

In terms of the types of incidents reports, the highest were: 19 x Violation of humanitarian principles of neutrality and independence (e.g. distribution of humanitarian aid for political purposes, denial of humanitarian aid based on political considerations; distribution of campaign materials in camps); 18 x General election concerns raised by IDPs (e.g. lack of info on, and irregularities with, IDP voting procedures, disenfranchisement of IDP voters); 13 x Code of Conduct Violations (i.e. non-adherence to IHEC Code of Conduct by election candidates or political parties); 9 x Protection violations (e.g. threats, harassment or attacks against displaced voters; armed actor presence in camps; movement restrictions which impede voting; denial or confiscation of documentation; demands for IDP data which was gathered for humanitarian purposes; etc.); and 4 x Security incidents (e.g. attacks against polling centres/stations or IHEC staff). The NPC will include an update on election incidents monitoring in the next CPI Note for HCT meeting on 20 May, with recommendations on how to strengthen the process - including dissemination of info on complaints procedures - in anticipation of the Kurdish parliamentary elections to be held in September.

## 2i. Updates from RPA mechanism

- Two RPAs have been conducted since the last NPC meeting in April; one in Ninewa Governorate and another in Anbar Governorate. The RPA team attempted to conduct a third one in Salah al-Din Governorate (Balad area), but the team was not able to proceed due to the security situation in the area.
- The RPA in Jeddah 4 camp (Ninewa Governorate) identified alarming living conditions, mainly related to lack of basic services, sporadic food and non-food item distributions. The RPA identified extremely vulnerable individuals and families who are facing severe restrictions of movement and are in need of access to legal assistance. Issues with detention of male adolescents were identified during the assessment too. The RPA team observed many out of school children, as well as young children partaking in work/labour activities, as well as young and adolescent males being an unseen demographic.
- The RPA in Ameriyat Al Fallujah camps (Anbar Governorate) identified issues relating to IDPs' restricted freedom of movement, fear of potential forced return, legal protection concerns including detention, lack of identification documents and presence of extremely vulnerable individuals, including specific issues for women and child protection concerns.
- The RPA team is planning more RPAs in the coming two weeks; the team will continue to look into other locations in Diyala and Anbar governorates.
- Martina Lecci, RPA Officer, participated in the Protection Information Management training in Amman two weeks ago, together with other representatives from organisations working with the NPC.

## 3. AOB

- **Global Protection Cluster conference:** The NPC will speak on three panels during GPC Conference in Bangkok from 28 May – 1 June, including: (i) Hard Talk panel on coordination in challenging operational contexts (MENA), with a focus on 'monitoring, assessment and protection analysis' and 'durable solutions'; (ii) Guiding Principles 20 Year Anniversary (GP20) with discussion on wins/challenges for each of the four priority issues in the GP20 Plan of Action (IDP participation, law and policy, data on internal displacement and protracted displacement/solutions); (iii) Detentions - the panel is structured around the following themes: (a) Organisational experience with programming in detentions; (b) Trends over the last few years and evolution of programming in detention; (c) Key challenges, red lines identified by the organisation. NPC and CP SC will speak to the issue of detentions in the context of the Mosul emergency response, as well as broader engagement on detention, i.e.: Civil Military Coordination for protection outcomes in the context of the Mosul response; UNHCR Iraq Detention SOPs as the basis for proposed Protection Cluster detention guidance; UNHCR Alternatives to Detention project; UNICEF/CP Sub-Cluster work on juvenile justice. GBV SC will be facilitating a session on its experience with producing interactive dashboards, service mapping and referral pathways, and another session on the development and finalization of GBV SOPs. HLP Sub-Cluster and MA Sub-Cluster will participate in the HLP and MA AoR meetings on 28-29 May.
- **Survey questionnaire for NPC partners:** The survey questionnaire has been finalized; the survey will be uploaded onto KoboTool platform and will close on 24 May.
- **Protection Coordination retreats in Baghdad & Erbil:** NPC will be holding a Protection Coordination Retreat in Baghdad for PWG Coordinators from C/S on 6-7 June; and in Erbil for KRI/Ninewa PWG Coordinators on 27-28 June. The Retreat will cover the following topics: Humanitarian Programme Cycle and Six Core Functions of Clusters; NPC Work Plan and Strategy; Perception Survey Results; PWG Field Perspectives - What is working well and what needs strengthening; PWG ToR and Thematic Coordination Forums (e.g. Legal Partners Meetings); ActivityInfo, Service Mapping; Strengthening coordination between PWGs and CP/GBV WGs and HLP focal points; Inter-Agency Referral Form (IARF) and Referral Pathways; CwC Taskforce; Needs analysis and strategic planning (Humanitarian Needs Overview / Humanitarian Response Plan [HNO / HRP]); Resource mobilization (pooled funds, bilateral donors); Protection info management (dashboards, snapshots); Protection advocacy: Field-level advocacy (with authorities, CMCoord, OCHA, other Clusters, partners), and higher-level advocacy (Critical Protection Issues Notes, thematic advocacy briefs, donor advocacy); Protection Mainstreaming; Rapid Protection Assessment (RPA) & Response Matrix; Forced Eviction/Return Tracking Matrix; Governorate Returns Committees (GRC) and related datasets; Community Resource Centres (CRC).
- Next NPC meeting to be held on 21 June 2018.