



**National Protection Cluster**

**Minutes of Meeting (12 July 2018)**

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

**Chaired by:** Claudia Nicoletti (NPC Co-Coordinator)

**1. Review of Action Points from 21 June 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 – Partners’ perception Survey, GRCs Updates, Target v. Achievement for the Cluster (15 mins)
- i. Update from RPA mechanism

**3. AOB**

**1. Review of Action Points from 21 June 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>	<u>Completed.</u> Document on camp consolidation and closure based on lessons learnt in Erbil Governorate was shared with NPC invitation email.
<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>	<u>Ongoing.</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance from NPC on further advocacy requested by Sulaymaniyah protection partners on decision from authorities in Sulaymaniyah not to allow the families who return to their areas of origin and then come back, to re-register in the camps.</li> </ul>	<u>Completed.</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPC to share Powerpoint presentations from HNO Workshop &amp; HNO Timeline with Protection partners.</li> </ul>	<u>Ongoing.</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPC to share CP Sub-Cluster “targets v. achievements analysis for IDPs and Refugees” with NPC partners.</li> </ul>	<u>Completed.</u> The document was shared together with NPC MOM.

Minutes adopted without amendments.

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

**Ninewa:**

- In Ninewa Governorate, protection partners working in the camps have been tracking cases of denial of returns. Between April and June 2018, protection partners identified 107 families denied the right to return, predominantly based on perceived affiliation of family members with extremists. Majority of the identified families reside in Jeddah camps and Nimrud camp. The areas of origin of families subject to denial of return include: Sinjar, Telafar, and Ba’aj in Ninewa Governorate; Shirqat and Baiji in Salah al-Din (SAD) Governorate;

and Hawiga in Kirkuk Governorate. Returns of these families have been obstructed by either pro-government armed groups (Yezidi PMF in Sinjar, and PMF units in other areas of origin), mukhtars or tribal sheikhs or community members.

- Protection and CCCM Clusters conducted a roll-out training on the Incident Reporting Matrix for humanitarian partners in Hajj Ali, Jeddah and Airstrip camps. The matrix serves to track incidents related to armed actors presence in the camps as a basis for evidence-based advocacy.

#### **KRI:**

- In order to build partners' capacity in one of the key areas in terms of protection needs, Protection Cluster is partnering with IOM Social Cohesion and PSS Unit in organizing an MHPSS training for protection partners in KRI and Ninewa on 24-26 July.
- Following the advocacy by the Education Cluster, supported by the Protection Cluster, there has been progress in discussions with the Ministry of Education in Baghdad regarding the implementation of the decision to close IDP schools in KRI. Protection partners requested to monitor IDPs' views and concerns regarding the possible IDP school closure and communicate to the cluster to inform further actions by the Education Cluster.
- DPWG concerned about progressive withdrawal of humanitarian partners' services, including protection services, in Dohuk Governorate vis-à-vis outcomes of intentions survey indicating that more than 85% of IDPs in camp and out-of-camp do not currently plan to return to their areas of origin.
- Turkish military activities along the border trigger short-term displacement. Displaced individuals stay with their families and collective centers between a few hours up to a few days. Protection partners continue monitoring the situation, assessing families' needs and are on stand-by in case of larger scale displacement.
- Increased numbers of families originating from Baaj district in Ninewa Governorate have been reporting arriving in Erbil city, particularly Baharka camp in the last months. Majority of these families are in their second or third displacement, and were previously residing in IDP camps in Ninewa like Salamiya, Jeddah, etc. Further information sharing regarding this group is needed between Erbil and Ninewa PWGs.

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

- **Displacement/Secondary Displacement:** *In Salah al-Din (SAD)* - Insecurity in several areas of Shirqat have forced 75 IDP families to move to Tikrit and other areas in Shirqat district; Few families moved from Tikrit complexes (Dream City and Shaqlawa) to Karama IDP camp following the eviction notification they received from the Police. *In Anbar* - On 27 June, seven IDP families were expelled by tribal fighters from Jazeerat al-Khalidiya to Kilo 18 IDP camp following their return to the area (worth mentioning that all families had obtained the required security approvals by the authorities). *In Kerbala* - Around 150 families are displaced from Thi-Qar Governorate due to severe drought; the families started moving to Kerbala two month ago. Families reported that they were unable to cultivate and their livestock died. MoDM-Kerbala received an official letter from higher authorities stating that displaced Iraqis from the southern areas that moved to Karbala should be registered as IDPs in order to get assistance from MoDM, MOLSA, I/NGOs. Registration will start from next week; the families are considering moving to an IDP camp (not clear which this will be).
- **Camp consolidation/closure:** *In Anbar* - Al Khalidiya (AK) and Habaniya Tourist City (HTC) camps: The local authorities of Anbar continue to unilaterally decide on camp consolidation and closure, disregarding decisions made at the GRC level. It has been reported that Anbar local authorities decided to relocate all families from AK to HTC and the government will close all camps in Al-Khalidiya. Emergency cell in HTC reported that they have received instructions to prepare space for all families that will be relocated. *In Kirkuk* - Due to protection, security and administrative challenges in Daquq IDP camp, both the local government and humanitarian partners sitting at the GRC reached a consensus to close the camp. It was agreed that the IDPs will be given options to relocate to Laylan 1, Laylan 2 and Nazrawa camps; an exit survey was carried out by humanitarian partners to provide information to IDPs about services availability in the three camps, as well as assess where IDPs would like to move to. A total of 564 IDP families (2,995 individuals - including 1,363 adult females and 1,632 adult males, 926 male children and 923 female children) residing in Daquq camp were assessed; majority of IDPs opted to move to Laylan 1 camp. Worth to note that one day after the exit survey was completed, local authorities reportedly carried out another survey in the camp; a total of 385 families reportedly registered to return to their areas of origin.
- **Forced evictions/relocation in SAD:** *In Tikrit complexes* – GRC SAD meeting was held on 4 July; it was agreed that the government authorities will inform the IDPs about the schedule of the forced evictions. Dream City complex is scheduled to be evacuated on 15 July, Al Diom complex on 22 July, and the other on 29 July. The Deputy Governor communicated through official letter the schedule of evictions to all stakeholders (owners of the complexes and humanitarian partners). *Forced relocation of Al-Alam IDPs to Kirkuk camps* – local authorities in SAD threatened IDPs originally from Kirkuk, and currently in Al-Alam camp, with forced relocation back to

camps in Kirkuk; humanitarian partners highlighted the forced aspect of such move and initiated advocacy at higher level to halt it; an agreement was reached to stop the move (however there are indications that forced relocation movements of IDPs back to camp in their governorate of origin will resume – as unofficially stated by local authorities).

- **Returns: in Anbar-** Twelve returnee families are currently stranded at the school in Garma as they are unable to return to their areas of origin. The families have been requested to obtain further security approvals from East Anbar Operations Command and Baghdad Operations Command, as Anbar Operation Command that facilitated their security screening and transport, has no jurisdiction in these areas. Some of the families reported that their houses were still occupied by armed groups; following advocacy from different actors, the IDPs families were reportedly allowed to return their homes; around 300 families have returned voluntarily from camps in Anbar to their areas of origin in Jazerat Al-Ramadi, Al-Qaim, Garma and Heet. *In Basra* - 31 families returned to Baghdad, Anbar, Kirkuk governorate, as well as Mosul city. On other hand, 10 families who had returned to their areas origin in Mosul district decided to move back to Al Diwaniyah city; MoMD refused to register them as IDPs. *In SAD* - 185 families have returned voluntarily from West Shirqat, Tikrit and Baghdad to areas of origin in east Shirqat, Baiji, Abu-Hishma, Yathrib and Aziz Balad after completing the security screening; another 85 families have obtained security coupons and accessed area of origin in Aziz Balad in order to verify the condition of their houses and the available services in the area. That brings the total number of families who obtained security coupons to access Aziz Balad to 514 families. Due to the high level of destruction and lack of services in Aziz Balad, families are still live in displacement. *Balad train station* - on 5 July 2018, a coordination meeting in Balad Mayor Office, discussed the security situation in Refeaat and surrounding areas, and agreed to facilitate the return of families currently in Balad train station to Refeaat area.

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

- **Commemoration of Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) Day:** UN agencies, INGOs and NNGOs conducted a conference in Erbil (25 June) and Baghdad (26 June) on CRSV day. A Joint UNAMI, UNICEF, UNFPA Press Release was released in English/Arabic/Kurdish calling for increased protection of children born of sexual violence in conflict.
- **Engaging men in accountable practice (EMAP):** UN agencies, I/INGOs and DCVAW attended 1-week training on EMAP on EMAP; a GBV prevention approach that will engage men and boys in the prevention of GBV in their communities.
- **Adolescent Girls Toolkit:** the toolkit was rolled out for 5 days with 6 facilitators from three NGOs in Diyala. The tool will engage adolescent girls in different activities within safe spaces, including psychosocial - recreational activities.
- **‘Enhancing support for women and children affected by the conflict’ workshop:** Duhok GBV WG participated in reviewing the protection advocacy note for return areas (in particular Zummar, Wana, Rabea and Bashi) on the basis of the recommendations from the workshop mentioned above; the recommendations were then shared with relevant Clusters, Sub-Clusters and key stakeholders for their follow up actions.
- **Gaps and Challenges in GBV prevention and response:** (1) Limited legal support (including lack of legal documentation of children born out of rape and those born in captivity, as well as women without legal documents; (2) Reduction of GBV services in IDPs Camps and non-camp settings across Iraq; (3) Difficulty in accessing RH services is reported by women in Bzebiz and Habaniya IDPs camps in Centre-South Iraq; (4) Restriction on access to services, as well as case referrals in out-of-camp settings, especially for women and girls with perceived affiliation to extremists. Also, conservative social norms prevent women and girls from coming to women’s center without approval from their husbands or fathers; (5) Need of PSEA, PSS and case management coaching and mentoring interventions for new GBV actors, in particular in Kirkuk Governorate; (6) Need to refresh trainings of partners on ActivityInfo, including for new GBV actors across Iraq; (7) Lack of/insufficient GBV services in some areas of return, in particular in Dohuk Goernorate.

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

- **Child Survivor’s Initiative:** The initial visit took place 23 June - 5 July with the aim to (1) document current challenges and opportunities for coordination and service provision for child survivors; and (2) agree on a draft workplan to improve coordination and service in coming 6 months. After consultations, the draft workplan will focus on (1) strengthening capacity of case management for Child Survivors, and (2) strengthening coordination with common guidance, clear referral pathways and joint actions.
- **PSS Technical TF:** The TF has been set up with 8 members, who are discussing on the roll out plans and common impact measurement tools. The rollout within the member organizations is ongoing, and the agreed measurement tool is now uploaded on Kobo for actors to use.

- **Meeting on Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (CAAFAG):** An *ad hoc* meeting on CAAFAG was hosted by the Case Management WG on 5 July to understand the challenges actors are facing on responding to different categories of CAAC/CAAFAG. While being mindful of the stigma of labelling, actors agreed that there are different challenges and opportunities for each category; the members of the Case Management WG will reconvene on 24 July in the morning (before Case Management WG meeting) to discuss the prioritization of the actions that should be taken to tackle imminent challenges for members, while keeping the scope for long-term prevention / reintegration program needs.
- **Children without documentation/ born out of rape:** Based on UNICEF / UNAMI joint project, two consultancies have started addressing the issue of children born out of rape. The consultants will look at (1) the legal framework and its challenges of children born out of rape, and (2) start up the coordination mechanism among actors who contribute in supporting children born out of rape (This is under the joint communique with the GOI ). CP Sub-Cluster is aware that also another INGO has initiated a similar consultancy focusing on understanding legal barriers for undocumented children; a coordination meeting among the INGO and UN agencies will take place next week.
- **Targets v. Achievements in 2018:** As mid-year achievement, the CP Sub-Cluster has reached 329,389 people, including both HRP and non-HRP funding. The highest achievement is PSS (172,630 children), followed by awareness raising activity (116,355 people). Specialized services (10,710 children) and parents activities (8,468 people) targets remain lower than expected so far, while support for community-based group members (16,007 people) and capacity building for CP workers and non-CP workers (5,219 people) exceeded the target for 2018 at mid-year. The Strategic Advisory Group will critically review the reasons of under and over achievement for critical indicators, and will advise if a revision of targets is needed.

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

- The new MA Sub-Cluster coordinator arrived – her name is Kristina Duric and she can be reach at [IraqMineActionAoR@unops.org](mailto:IraqMineActionAoR@unops.org). Lindsay and Fadwa who have been covering for the position will step down.
- There are now 7 international NGOs with registration and accreditation (DDG, NPA, MAG, FSD, HI, DCA, HALO); however everyone is still struggling with visas which is blocking operations.
- Despite challenges operations have been ongoing in the following areas: **(1) Survey and Clearance operations** in: Anbar, Fallujah, Basra, Duhuk (Duhuk, Zakho, Amedi, Shekhan), Diyala (Kalar), Erbil (Makmour, Shaqlawa), Kirkuk (Daquq), Missan (Amara – Baghdad Highway), Ninewa (Mosul, Tel Afar, Sinjar, Hamdaniya, Tilkif), Suleymaniya (Chamchamal, Sharbahzher); **(2) Risk Education and NTS:** Anbar, Fallujah; Baghdad, Abu Ghraib IDP camp; Duhuk (Duhuk, Zakho, Amedi, Shekhan, Bardarash); Diyala (Baquba, Muqadiyah, Khanaqin, Kalar); Kirkuk (Hawijah); Muthana (All); Ninewa (Mosul, Tel Afar, Sinjar, Hamdaniya, Tilkif, Baaj); SAD (Shirqat, Baiji, Tikrit); Suleymaniya (Chamchamal, Sharbahzher); Wasit; **(3) Victim Assistance:** Diyala and Garmiyan; **(4) Training of Police First Responder:** started in Kirkuk. Anbar ongoing.
- **Online request form for humanitarian orgs:** All orgs reminded to factor possible mine action requirements into all planning and programming in areas previously occupied by extremist groups, and particularly those that have experienced military operations. Joint projects are encouraged, reach out to MA partners for RE and/or clearance.
- **Explosives, ISF and response:** In federal Iraq, MA organizations can only render items safe or move safe items; MA organisations cannot ‘destroy’ anything, the ISF is the only ones that can do this; This means that even if a MA org responds, if the item is deemed unsafe to move, we still have to wait for the ISF to show up; **Everyone is encouraged to phone 182 or 115 for response teams; Residential** - Significant discussions ongoing regarding clearance inside private houses; **Still the Govt is the only one clearing inside houses, please advise people to phone 182 or 115.**
- **Briefing sessions to provide staff with awareness:** Explosive Hazard (EH) Awareness Training for Humanitarian Workers. The next two sessions in Erbil will be on 12 and 26 August from 10h00 – 12h00; The next two sessions in Baghdad will be on 19 July 2018 from 10h00 – 12h00; The language of training will be English. If there is a strong demand, future trainings can be conducted with Arabic translations. Contact: Celine Cheng [celine.cheng@unmas-iraq.org](mailto:celine.cheng@unmas-iraq.org) or Katrien Nollen [katrien.nollen@unmas-iraq.org](mailto:katrien.nollen@unmas-iraq.org)
- Last month there was a number of request for clearance in Sinjar: Mines Advisory Group – MAG will be resuming activities there soon. Contact Portia Stratton [Portia.Stratton@maginternational.org](mailto:Portia.Stratton@maginternational.org) from MAG for more info.

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

- **Guidance Note:** The final draft of the Due diligence guidance note has been sent to some of the partners for their review and comments. Once comments are received and incorporated, the note will be widely circulated among partners.
- **HLP SAG Nominations:** The deadline to nominate members and alternates for the HLP SAG is today; the HLP Sub-Cluster is expected to convene its first SAG meeting this month.
- **HLP Assessment:** In July, the HLP Sub-Cluster had two meetings with different partners to discuss the development and implementation of HLP assessments; HLP Sub-Cluster has drafted the assessment questions and shared them with partners; the assessments will be implemented in the following governorates: Anbar, Baghdad, Basra, Babil, Diyala, including Kanaqhin and Kalar, Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Missan, Salah Al-Din, Ninewa and Kirkuk. The Sub-Cluster is expecting to receive feedback on the assessments conducted by partners by the end of July.
- **HLP Dashboard:** The HLP Sub-Cluster Dashboard for the month of May 2018, which is based on data gathered by partners through the UNHCR Chat Tool, is under finalization and will be shared with HLP and protection partners in the coming weeks.
- **Activityinfo (AI):** HLP Sub-Cluster recently noticed gaps and under reporting by partners on Activityinfo platform; accordingly, it was agreed to invite HLP partners to the Activityinfo training organized by the Shelter/NFIs Cluster to support HLP partners in understanding ways and importance of AI reporting.

## 2g. Strategic Update from CwC Task Force

- CwC TF Coordinator and UNHCR Senior Protection Officer attended a meeting on community engagement with MoLSA organized by DFID in Baghdad; the meeting discussed support to MoLSA on accountability to affected population through enhancement of Feedback and Complaints mechanism. MoLSA presented the Helpline/complaints system used by IDPs and returnees, as well as the Citizen Electronic system where requests from assistance are received and processed. A follow up meeting will be organized among the same stakeholders in the near future (to be noted that MoLSA welcomed the initiative and committed to cooperate and coordinate efforts as needed).
- CwC TF and CCCM Cluster are working together to raise awareness of IDPs and those in needs on the risks of summer diseases. Education material has been printed by IOM CwC, while the dissemination of the information will occur through engagement of CwC TF members and partners, both in camps and non-camp settings.
- CwC TF is planning to intensify the anti-fraud information campaign previously conducted due to recent reports of fraud and financial exploitation of IDPs in Shaqlawa city and few IDPs camps (in particular Debaga camp); it seems that some organisations are offering fake job opportunities in Dubai and the Gulf area to IDPs in exchange for money.
- Know Before You Go (KBYG): CwC, NPC & IOM CwC have reworked the messages after having received inputs from the pilot phase in Anbar and SAD. The form of the KBYG messages has been changed from questions to statements. The next pilot phase will be in the coming weeks in Centre-South Iraq.

## 2h. Update from NPC

- **Findings of Partners' Perception Survey:** The NPC presented findings of the survey administered to NPC partners in May 2018; the PWG section findings were presented and discussed together with PWGs Coordinators in the two NPC retreats held both in Baghdad and Erbil in June 2018. Follow up actions were identified and communicated to Coordinators.  
**AP: NPC to share findings of the survey with partners.**
- **GRCs updates:** Humanitarian Advisor/OCHA gave an update on the running GRCs (Anbar, SAD, Kirkuk). A preparatory meeting was held with humanitarian and (some) government actors of GRC Ninewa. The first official GRC Ninewa meeting is planned for the end of the first week of August. Re: GRC Baghdad, evictions and closure of camps have been suspended until the end of school examinations on 19 July. OCHA, in coordination with GRC appointed members, is reaching to Baghdad Governor's office to arrange a meeting to discuss the establishment of the GRC (probably to occur next week). General consensus among GRC members is that more advocacy is required for the Principle Returns Framework to be adapted as a part of GRCs' ToR. The document has been finalized and endorsed by ICCG; now it has to be shared with HCT for their endorsement before it is communicated to GOI representatives. OCHA is working on an advocacy note to be shared with the Humanitarian Coordinator; the note will highlight the main concerns around the GRCs system.
- **NPC achievements mid-year review:** Based on the Cluster mid-year review (January-May 2018), so far the provision of specialized protection services, awareness raising and capacity building of community members and service providers reached or exceeded targets. The shift from agency-led service provision to community

based support and referrals were especially successful. Among general protection partners, implementation of protection monitoring, legal assistance and psycho-social (PSS) was lower than expected by end of May, and this can be attributed to absence of new displacements, barriers to accessing legal assistance for individuals with perceived affiliations, capacity limitations related to resilience-oriented PSS, and delays in distribution of funding. For GBV Sub-Cluster, capacity development interventions did not reach the expected target due to strategic prioritization, with a focus on delivery of life-saving interventions for GBV survivors. For the Child Protection Sub-Cluster, case management support for the most vulnerable children did not reach the expected target due to delays in funding disbursement during February to May 2018. Areas with longer-term displaced population – such as KR-I and east Anbar - received significantly less funding and therefore child protection actors presence there was more limited. The HLP Sub-Cluster's has had a limited number of specialized partners and partial presence across, but this is due to change in the second half of 2018. At the beginning of January only two international mine action NGOs were able to work in Iraq and by mid-year, this is now up to eight.

**AP: NPC to discuss with SAG members the way forward re: potential revision of targets (including protection monitoring).**

## **2i. Updates from RPA mechanism**

- On June 27 an RPA was conducted in Tal Abu Jarad, Baiji district, SAG Governorate and the report was released last week. The RPA was triggered due to reports of premature returns. Summary of findings: The village of Tal Abu Jarad has significant destruction of housing and complete destruction of basic services (water network, electricity infrastructure, education facilities). The assessment found a high level of contamination of houses and public areas, lack of services or support from authorities or non-government organisations. The physical safety of returnees, due to ongoing skirmishes as well as contamination, is the highest protection concern. The RPA team is following the evictions in Tikrit very closely and will deploy an RPA in the areas of origin/return/secondary displacement or in new areas of displacement if the situation escalates.
- An RPA is planned in Qaim and one in Saadiya sub-district of Diyala in the next couple of weeks, which have been already discussed and approved by the NPC.

## **3. AOB**

- **REACH MCNA:** REACH MCNA is at 20% completion rate over the course of 12 days. Collection is not going as fast as anticipated (due to different reasons, including access to certain areas across Iraq). Partners who have the possibility to support REACH with enumerator teams, coverage and increased time are kindly requested to reach out to Nina Young [nina.yang@reach-initiative.org](mailto:nina.yang@reach-initiative.org).
- **Iraq Assessment Registry:** It is used as a repository of all planned and completed assessments, classified by Cluster, organization, location, population type, etc. The graphic is prepared on a monthly basis by OCHA IM colleagues based on information available on the [Iraq Assessment Registry](#). The assessments uploaded by partners onto the Assessment Registry will be used for secondary data review to inform needs analysis as part of the HNO 2019. *Partners are kindly reminded to upload their assessments onto the Iraq Assessment Registry.*
- Next NPC meeting to be held on 16 August from 11:00 am to 1:00pm.