



National Protection Cluster

Minutes of Meeting (13 September 2018)

Locations: UNHCR Baghdad, UNHCR Erbil, plus Webex
Chaired by: Mohammed Khan (NPC Coordinator)

1. Review of Action Points from 16 August meeting
2. Presentation by Reach on MCNA and RASP
3. 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 – Data Protection, Needs Validation & Response Identification Workshops, WFP Food Ration Cuts
 - i. Update from RPA mechanism
4. AOB

1. Review of Action Points from 16 August meeting

Action Points	Update/Follow-up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPC to share RWG’s Quality of Returns Index with members. 	<u>Completed</u>

Minutes adopted without amendments.

2. Presentation by Reach on MCNA and RASP: Reach delivered a presentation on main findings related to eight indicators used by NPC for the needs severity for the HNO 2019; as well as a presentation on the main findings related to protection indicators in the Rapid Risk Assessment Priority Tool (RASP) which focuses on informal sites across Iraq.

AP: NPC to disseminate the PPTs from both presentations to partners.

3a. Strategic Update from KRI & Ninewa PWG

- **Ninewa:** Militarization of camps and screening procedures: Organizations continue to express concerns about the militarization of camps in Ninewa. The issue has been reported in several meetings and advocacy raised at different levels but activities of military or security actors continue to take place inside camps. In May 2018 the CCCM and Protection Clusters developed a tool to better track the incidents, gauge trends and underpin higher-level advocacy. The tool was first piloted in Jed’ah and recently expanded to Airstrip and Hajj Ali camps. Incidents reported are currently being analyzed but preliminary reports highlighted that the militarization of camps is often accompanied by other protection violations, such as unlawful investigations, physical and verbal assaults of IDPs or even GBV. Final results of the analysis will be shared with NPC members. Screening procedures inside camps also continued. MoDM recently sent a letter to camp managers in Mosul camps informing them of upcoming security screening procedures in the camps. Dates were not specified and it is not clear which security or law enforcement actor will carry it out. Detention of individuals is expected based on previous search operations. NPC prepared Talking Points for the HC’s meeting with the National Operations Command on 6 September to highlight the militarization of camps and multiple search operations that have taken place in the past month. Data requests: There have also been additional requests from MoDM for sharing IDP individual information, such as persons with perceived affiliations, place of origin of IDPs, IDPs with disabilities, and weekly seasonal departures from camps. CCCM and Protection Clusters have highlighted principles guiding data collection, including the humanitarian purpose that must guide data collection. Protection WGs in Ninewa/KRI will host data protection discussions at the governorate level and partners are

encouraged to bring to the attention of PWGs any such data requests. UNHCR sent a letter to MoDM Ninewa office expressing its concern about the data requests. Returns to Gawlat villages, Sinjar: About 350 (Sunni) Arab families have returned to Gawlat villages in Sinjar from Mosul area in the previous weeks. This is the first return of Sunni Arabs from various camps and out-of-camp areas of Zummar and Ayadiyah to the place of origin (source: Mukhtars). Protection partners have expressed concern of possible tensions arising between Sunni Arab returnees and Yazidis locally. Partners have recently reached the area and initial reports highlight challenges related to peaceful coexistence between the two groups. Findings will be shared in the upcoming days and responses sought from partners depending on identified needs.

- **Ninewa / Dohuk: Coordination of transition process**: PWGs are in the process of consolidating coordination structure for Ninewa protection activities. An ad-hoc meeting was organized by NPWG in Sinune (Sinjar) to reinforce synergies with actors currently operating in the north of the Governorate and NPWG. Following the transition period, NPWG will be responsible for coordinating all the response in Ninewa, with Dohuk PWG focusing on Dohuk's response. This is in line with the results of a survey done in July with regards to protection operations management and evolving political dynamics.
- **Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI): Returns to Hasasham villages**: Protection partners working in Hamdaniya camps had been advocating with authorities in Erbil for the approval of return of 3,000 to 4,000 IDPs to 11 villages in Hasansham area. KRI PWG has been informed that the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Interior have agreed that IDPs should be able to return and that arrangements should start to facilitate this return. KRI PWG awaits results from meetings between security actors of the area and JCC, and JCC discussions at the higher level, to discuss the way forward for returns. Mine and explosive hazard clearances were highlighted as a primary concern, despite some indications that Peshmerga would have cleared overall parts of the cities. MA SC has been activated and will support EPWG in assessing existing information about explosive hazards in the area and possible explosive risk education. Practical modalities of the returns are also being assessed, and EPWG and other Clusters are working to determine how humanitarian actors can support to meet minimum living standards for returnees and ensure sustainability of returns, if and when authorized. Situation in Makhmoor district: During a recent assessment to the area, humanitarian actors were informed that the security situation of areas around Makhmour remains highly unstable. According to local authorities, members of extremist groups continue to commit crimes against civilians in the area. In addition, there are reports of people of Qaraj and nearby villages requesting to be accepted to Debaga camp due to the insecurity, financial problems and lack of public services. Requests are not being processed due to security concerns. Considering the current security situation in Makhmour and Qaraj area, local authorities expect new arrivals to Debaga camp, which could represent a challenge to the already resource-limited camp. Assistance and services to protracted IDP populations: PWGs across KRI highlight the increased number of organizations withdrawing and programmes suspended in camps, and the possible impact of the suspension of services in terms of exacerbating existing vulnerabilities. This is particularly relevant to camps with protracted IDP populations, where services from NGO actors has decreased.
- The new KRI/Ninewa PWG Coordinator is Bruno Stolze (stolze@unhcr.org / 0770 494 5651).

3b. Strategic Update from C/S PWG

- **Baghdad: Forced Evictions and camp closures in Baghdad**: On 9 September, Al-Khadhraa camp was closed following a verbal notification by the Baghdad Operations Command to IDPs in late August. IDPs were given the option of returning to the AoO or moving to Al-Ahal camp in Abu Graib, Baghdad. 51 families left the camp following the evictions threats, prior to 9 September, with at least 20 families moving to rented houses in the neighborhood. On 9 September, the remaining 31 families were forced to leave the camps, with 13 families returning to their AoO in Baghdadi, Fallujah, Al-Qa'im, Ramadi in Anbar in buses provided by MoDM, while 14 families were relocated to Al-Ahal camp. The remaining four families moved to non-camp settings in Baghdad. WASH and shelter facilities in Al Ahal camp are limited, and the families expressed concerned about the distance between the camp, schools and livelihood opportunities. Further camp closures inside Baghdad are expected to take place in the near future, likely of Al Shams camp (270 households). C/S PWG has been advocating with OCHA for convening of the Baghdad GRC, and for all decisions related to camp consolidation and closure and return of IDPs to be held under the auspices of a GRC, guided by the ToR of the GRCs and the Principled Returns Framework. However, OCHA has replied that authorities in Baghdad are apparently not interested in forming a GRC. Therefore CCCM & Protection Clusters have prepared a position paper on minimum standards related to lawful evictions and principled returns to guide OCHA's engagement with authorities in Baghdad.
- **Anbar: Freedom of movement restrictions in Anbar camps**: IDPs in Ameriyat Al-Fallujah (AAF) and Kilo 18 camps in Anbar have been subject to heightened movement restrictions. IDPs in AAF camps are required to leave their

IDs with camp security at the entry checkpoints – provided by the Local Council of AAF - when departing the camps. This has resulted in de facto freedom of movement restrictions for IDPs without documents. Since mid-August, a number of incidents where IDPs were prevented from leaving the camp without clear justification have been reported. IDPs reported being prevented from leaving the camp by the officer in charge at the checkpoint, despite carrying medical referrals from health partners, having appointments with courts or civil registries to replace documents, or being government employees, without being provided clear justification. In at least two cases, the medical assistance needed by the IDPs was critical. Some IDPs were told - upon returning to the camp - that their IDs had been lost, while others reported being subject to verbal abuse at the entry checkpoints of AAF camp while trying to depart the camp. Although movement restrictions have been in place in Kilo 18 for some time, previously IDPs had been able to leave the camp with permission from the camp management (who was assigned by the Governor's Office). Since July, IDPs currently have to obtain sponsorship from their sector leads as well as the camp management before being able to depart the camp for everyday movement. IDPs leaving the camp to access medical services require an escort. Since early August, ISF and police presence in the camp and in the surrounding area has also increased. NPC and C/S PWG prepared Talking Points for the HC's meeting with the National Operations Command on 6 September to highlight the movement restrictions in Anbar camps.

- **Salah al-Din: Forced Evictions & Forced Returns:** On 16 August, Salah al-Din Police reportedly visited Dream City complex and told IDPs they would have to leave the complex and return to their AoO within three days, with the exception of families from Baiji district and Al Senya sub-district (about 500 households out of the 800 households living in the complex). The civil documents of 270 families from Shirqat, Jazerat, Samarra, Jazerat Tikrit, Yathrib and Jurif al-Seeker were also confiscated. On 6 September, the Salah al-Din Police Commander ordered the eviction of IDPs from the complex with one week notice. Over the following two days, police repeatedly visited the complex and confiscated additional IDs of IDPs from Baiji and Shirqat district. On 7 September, police visited Qadissiyah complex in Tikrit and informed IDP families from Baiji (especially Tal Al Zu'ater and Tal Abu Jarad) and Shirqat (Ain Al Baidha) districts that they have to leave the complex within three days. IDPs from Al Senya in Baiji were again told they would be exempt. On 10 September, the Salah-al-Din Tactical Regiment (STR) of the police, entered Qadissiyah complex around 7.30 am and confiscated civil documents, including national IDs but also security slips, of all IDPs except those from Al Senya, ordering them to leave the complex. The following day, the police returned and confiscated the IDs of families from the above mentioned locations that had not been present during the previous day. Qadissiyah complex hosts 1,142 families. 9 families were said to have left the complex, on 12 September. On 7 September, 14 households from Al Senya and Tal Abu Jarad, living in an unfinished building (orphanage) located in Qadissiyah neighbourhood had their IDs confiscated by Tikrit police and were informed they would have to leave the informal settlement within three days. Similarly, the same day, police informed 37 IDP households in Al-Souk Al-Asri complex (originating from Salah al-Din, Kirkuk and Ninewa) that they have to leave the complex. Though Salah al-Din has a GRC which has been operational since 16 April 2018, evictions threats, forced evictions and forced enforced by the security actors continue to be undertaken outside the ambit of the GRC. In each of the above instances, Protection & CCCM partners monitored the situation and raised their concerns – through OCHA with the Deputy Governor, who chairs the Salah al-Din DRC – to advocate for immediate suspension of the forced evictions and forced returns, return of all seized documents to IDPs, and coordination of all such issues through the GRC.
- **Kirkuk: Camp closures/organized returns:** Kirkuk authorities facilitated the organized returns of 299 families (1,585 individual) from Daquq camp to Hawiga district on 28 August. On 6 September, 20 IDP families from the camps also returned to Rasha sub-district of Hawiga, after Rashad centre was cleared for returns. On 2 September, the relocation process of 202 families began, with 152 families (786 individuals) transported to Laylan1 and Laylan 2 camps. The IDPs had previously - though an intentions survey - been provided the choice of relocating to three Kirkuk camps. 105 IDP families (751 individual), most of which were not able to secure security clearances to return to their AoO, remain in the Daquq camp but will likely be relocated in the coming weeks. The camp closure was closely coordinated between humanitarian actors and authorities on the ground.
- **Karbala: Displacement:** 93 IDPs families (680 individuals) in Karbala live in informal settlements – including abandoned houses - in poor living conditions, including shortages of drinking water and cramped living conditions, with limited humanitarian support. They were displaced from Babel, Wassit, Diwaniyah, Muhtanna and Thi Qar governorates due to a lack of water for irrigation of their farms. Some families had been in displacement since 2009 while others arrived as recently as two months ago.
- **Basra: Returns:** 59 families (291 individuals) returned from Basra, Missan, Thi-Qar, Muhtanna and Diwaniyah to their AoO including Anbar, Ninewa and Kirkuk. Two additional families (10 individuals) left and moved to secondary locations of displacement. Threats of evictions: At least 34 IDPs living in private housing and informal settlements in the five southern governorates were reported to be under threat of evictions by the host

community. Overall it has been noted that particularly in Thi-Qar, tension between IDPs and host communities has recently increased.

3c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster

- **Overview:** Several GBV actors are planning to expand GBV services in Anbar, especially West Anbar. There has been continuous informal reporting of sexual exploitation and abuse by security forces as well as “organized” survival sex in Salah al-Din and Anbar. Ninewa GBV WG is now fully operational
- **Achievements:** Service mapping/referral pathways were developed for Ninewa, Hawiga districts, and updated for Babylon, Najaf, Erbil and Dohuk. GBV SOP roll-out workshops were successfully organized on 3-5 September in Baghdad, targeting Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Karbala, Najaf and Salah al-Din. Both government representatives (from Ministries and local governments) as well as GBV service providers expressed their commitment towards implementing GBV SOPs.
- **Needs/Gaps:** There are restrictions on access to services as well as case referrals to outside camps, especially for the families 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. Limited livelihood support and legal support for GBV survivors, generally. Lack of GBV legal services in West Mosul and Northern Ninewa i.e. (Sinjar, Bashiqa, Wana). There is insufficient GBV services and other Health services in the retaken areas (i.e. Al-Adheem and Saadiya Subdistricts) in Diyala. Transportation issues continue to be a barrier for beneficiaries to access services, particularly in areas outside of camps in Diyala. Gap in GBV case management in Hawija. Limited availability of mental health professionals. Some people do not want to attend sessions at Women centers unless small gifts are provided. Ambulance service for pregnant women in Anbar and Salah al-Din.

AP: GBV SC to identify governorates where there are gaps in GBV legal services, and share these with NPC. NPC to share this information with governorate-level PWGs, particularly in those governorates where there are existing Legals Partners meetings (e.g. Anbar, Salah al-Din, Diyala), in order to mobilize legal aid partners to address gaps in provision of GBV legal services.

3d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster

- CP Minimum Standards workshop were completed in both North and South. The feedback were compiled and shared with global Alliance of CP in Humanitarian Action
- The surge capacity for CP policy / code of conduct has been approved, waiting for visa approval. Expected arrival is October
- Child Survivor coordinator (Irene) will return to Iraq for long visit(5 weeks) in September, supporting SAD and Anbar CP and GBV actors
- Second round of Structured PSS training (Child Resilience and IDEAL) will be conducted in October. The invitation will be circulated soon

3e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster

- **Maps, Survey and Clearance:** MA SC reminded partners that its maps only show reported suspected and confirmed explosive hazards (EH). If EH contamination maps do not show a hazard, it does not mean it is safe, it might just mean it has not yet been surveyed. Survey activities of EH contamination in retaken areas are about to be stepped up, which should provide a more extensive picture of the scale and scope of EH contamination. Some surveying teams are still experiencing access problems which are not specific to MA actors.
- **Victim Assistance:** The GoI is hosting a high-level VA workshop at the end of September at which a number of MA organizations will be present. The data coming out of recent surveys – MCNA and RASP will be very interesting to feed into this workshop. Significant data gaps remain and have an effect on those who are not able to be represented. The data coming out of MCNA and RASP reinforces the message that services are not adequate. MA SC will reach out to the Health Cluster to identify potential areas of collaboration for advocacy and information sharing.
- **Clearance of Residential Buildings:** The discussions regarding clearance of private houses are still ongoing. Some organizations have made local arrangements with local authorities, the majority in rural/remote locations. Local agreements in urban locations such as Mosul are complicated. UNMAS is engaging with the Government to advocate for a national-wide process so that local ad-hoc processes can be avoided.
- **Explosives, ISF and response:** MA organizations can only render items safe or move safe items and cannot ‘destroy’ anything, all items are handed over to the ISF for destruction. UNMAS is working together with the

diplomatic community to advocate to the GoI to permit additional specialised equipment to increase operational efficiency of humanitarian MA operators.

- Reporting of EHs by Cluster/Sub-Cluster Members and HCT Members: UNMAS is in discussion with NCCI to streamline the process for NGOs to have quick access to the link. The link below is to be used for reporting the sighting of EHs or suspected EHs in retaken areas, this includes explosive remnants of war (ERW), landmines, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The form is self-explanatory and is available in English and Arabic. <http://bit.ly/TaskRequestForm>. Once submitted, the form comes directly to UNMAS and contact will be made with the originator (if details are available) after which actions and processes will be explained. This is done in coordination with the Directorate of Mine Action and completion reports are shared to the national database. Non-UN/non-cluster please phone the national mine action hotline '182' or the Civil Defense Force '115'.
- Explosive Hazard (EH) Awareness Training: The dates for the next RE sessions will be circulated by MA SC / NCCI when confirmed. The goal of this training is to provide the humanitarian community operating in Iraq with a basic knowledge of EH awareness to mitigate the risks and protect themselves from the dangers of EH when operating in known and potentially contaminated areas. By the end of the session, the participants should be aware of the dangers posed by EH, be able to recognise warning signs and signals of EH presence, and know what to do if encountered by EH.

3f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster

- During August, HLP SC participated in different compensation working groups – at central and governorate level - to discuss compensation issues with relevant authorities. HLP SC also participated in a two-day workshop on compensation, where the representatives from Central Compensation Committee, Judicial Council, Governorate Sub-Committees, Human Rights Commission, and other relevant authorities participated and presented the progress and challenges related to HLP compensation scheme. In this workshop, the representatives and participants reviewed the current procedures, and came up with proposals, recommendations and action points in order to simplify the claims procedures, where needed. The recommendations will be sent to Central Compensation Committee and relevant institutions for final review and endorsement. HLP SC delivered two presentations at the workshop. The first presentation was on HLP rights per international law and principles, and the second presentation was related to HLP challenges in Iraq, including compensation schemes. HLP SC also presented on the work of its partners on awareness raising, legal assistance and advocacy to assist IDPs to file claims for compensation.
- HLP SC is in the process of preparing another informative dashboard related to compensation based on an assessment conducted last month by an HLP SC partner. The assessment shows that: majority of IDPs whose houses have been damaged or destroyed are not aware of how to access the compensation scheme; they do not know whether there is a compensation committee or office in their area; and majority of them do not know how to file a compensation claim. HLP SC will work on a strategy with its partners to address the identified needs, including increasing awareness raising, legal aid and advocacy interventions to assist IDP to file claims to compensation committees. The dashboard will be released to all partners by last week of September.

3g. Strategic Update from CwC Task Force

- National CwC TF Coordinators attended the monthly meeting of the Dohuk CwC TF (D CwC TF) where the main issues and challenges facing the D CwC TF were discussed, and how the National CwC TF could assist in capacity building of CwC partners in Dohuk. The National CwC TF committed to provide CwC materials, tools and assessment methodologies to the D CwC TF.
- CwC TF is coordinating the rollout of the Know Before You Go campaign with C/S PWG. KBYG leaflets are ready along with the Guidelines. CwC TF will also conduct a one-day CwC ToT for C/S PWG. The rollout of the KBYG campaign in KRI shall commence within the incoming weeks. NPC will announce when printed leaflets are ready for pick-up by partners.
- CwC TF will contribute to the CwC/AAP chapter of the HNO 2018. The chapter will include inputs from CwC TF, data on AAP indicators from Reach's MCNA, data on AAP from the Iraq IDP Information Centre (IIC), and data on AAP from CCCM Cluster's RASP assessment in informal sites.
- CwC TF coordinated a one-day session on CwC hosted and facilitated by UPP in Erbil. The session targeted CwC partners in Erbil.
- Distribution of CwC printed material: Awareness raising printed materials about Scabies, Heat preparedness, and Anti-fraud has been sent to Sulaymaniyah. Another batch was sent to Dohuk as well.

3h. Update from NPC

- Data Protection: A number of partners have raised concerns about the multiple requests from GoI authorities – civilian, military and security actors – for data collected by humanitarian actors from beneficiaries. NPC

confirmed that such requests are not uncommon and will likely reoccur. Humanitarian organizations are under a legal obligation not to share beneficiary data with third parties, without the informed consent of beneficiaries, unless the data request is based on a court order. Therefore it was advised for partners to review their data protection policies and practices, and to consider whether to relocate any case files containing sensitive protection data from insecure locations (such as camps) to their field or country offices. Based on requests from partners for guidance on data protection, ahead of the meeting, NPC shared ICRC's 'Handbook on Data Protection in Humanitarian Action'. It was recommended for partners to share the Handbook with their senior management, and to lead discussions on data protection within their teams on the basis of the guidance in the Handbook.

- **Needs Validation & Response Identification Workshops:** Governorate-level PWGs – along the GBV & CP WGs, and HLP and MA focal points – will be holding half-day 'Needs Validation & Response Identification' workshops in Dohuk, Erbil, Sulimaniya, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din, Diyala, Anbar, Baghdad, Kerbala & Basra in the next two weeks. The objectives of the workshops are: (a) to briefly review governorate specific needs assessment data i.e. MCNA and CHAT data disaggregated by governorate; (b) to identify protection response priorities for 2019 in light of the upcoming 2019 HRP processes; and (c) to facilitate the development of 2019 Cluster and Sub-Cluster strategies, following the workshops. Governorate-level PWGs, GBV & CP WGs and HLP/MA focal points have already send invitations to partners in their respective governorates.
- **WFP Food Ration Cuts:** WFP will undertake food ration cuts across all IDP camps in Iraq, due to budgetary constraints. IDPs will receive their food ration in September & November, but not in the months of October and December. WFP staff will deliver messaging on the food ration cuts themselves in camps (and in some camps this has already started). WFP has agreed to share the schedule for their staff's visits to the camps with CCCM Cluster & NPC. CCCM Cluster will organize the logistics for the information sessions in the camps (i.e. they will invite the camp managers & IDP committees to attend on the date that the WFP staff comes to deliver the messages). NPC is in discussions with WFP and CCCM Cluster on what support is needed from NPC / CwC Task Force partners in terms of reinforcing the messaging after it has been initially delivered by WFP staff, and will update partners in due course. We should assume that the food ration cuts will cause considerable hardship among vulnerable IDPs in the camps, and security / protection implications may also materialize, including potential incursions into camps by armed security actors if any protests unfold, and in the longer-term we may also see an increase in resort to negative coping strategies by vulnerable IDPs (e.g. survival sex, child labor, begging, etc.), as well as premature returns by IDPs to areas of origin, before conditions are conducive for safe and sustainable returns. Protection partners working in camps should monitor the situation and the impact on IDPs and report any issues to camp management and to their governorate-level PWGs, so that we can engage in advocacy with WFP, donors and the HC/HCT. Food Security Cluster has already identified the need for any ad-hoc food ration supplies available through its partners to be distributed to the most vulnerable IDPs in camps, although any such supply will be extremely limited. We are collectively working to agree on vulnerability criteria. At the same time, the humanitarian community will be advocating for government authorities to lift movement restrictions so that IDPs are enabled to access livelihoods and markets.

3i. Updates from RPA mechanism

- RPA team completed an RPA training in Mosul at the end of August, in which 17 people from 11 organisations who cover Ninewa governorate participated.
- RPA team is currently doing an RPA in Gawlat, Sinjar district.

4. AOB

- Partners raised concerns that the entrance to UN compound in Erbil is very challenging, and requested NPC to consider hosting the meetings outside the UN compound.
AP: NPC to check for venues with capacity to host 40-50 participants, good Wifi and ability to connect via WebEx to Baghdad, and IT support during each meeting.
- Next NPC meeting to be held on **11 October 2018**.