



National Protection Cluster

Minutes of Meeting (13 December 2018)

Locations: UNHCR Baghdad, NCCI Erbil, plus Webex

Chaired by: Mohammed Khan (NPC Coordinator) and Claudia Nicoletti (NPC Co-Coordinator)

1. Review of Action Points from 15 November meeting
2. Strategic & Thematic Updates:
 - a. Strategic Update from KR-I PWG (10 mins)
 - b. Strategic Update from C/S PWG (10 mins)
 - c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster (10 mins)
 - d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster (10 mins)
 - e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster (10 mins)
 - f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster (10 mins)
 - g. Strategic Update from CwC Task Force (10 mins)
 - h. Update from NPC – Update on HNO/HRP process and Update on 2019 1st Standard Allocation (10 mins)
 - i. Update from RPA mechanism (10 mins)
3. AOB (30 mins)
 - a. REACH Initiative presentation on Intentions Survey findings
 - b. CIVIC presentation on HLP Compensation report (10 mins)

1. Review of Action Points from 15 November meeting

Action Points	Update/Follow-up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CwC TF Coordinator to share material with partners on F2F communication modalities with beneficiaries. 	Completed.

Minutes adopted without amendments.

2a. Strategic Update from KRI & Ninewa PWG

- **Human Rights violations of people with perceived affiliation:** In Ninewa Governorate, protection partners continue to identify cases of denial of returns. Between 28 October and 6 December 2018, protection partners identified 110 families (over 525 individuals) denied the right to return, predominantly based on perceived affiliation of family members with extremists.
- Despite continued engagement with armed security actors on the ground, the civilian and humanitarian character of IDP camps in Ninewa remains of concern. Humanitarian partners reported a total of 40 incidents in Qayyarah camps (Airstrip, Haj Ali and Jed'ah camps) from September to November 2018. A total of 14 incidents relate to the detention of 27 individuals, including 6 children, without display of arrest warrants or adequate information being provided to families on the reason for the arrest, or whereabouts of the detainees. Another five incidents related to the arrest of 10 individuals with arrest warrants. In addition, seven incidents were reported on the presence of arms inside the camp, as well as 14 incidents of physical and verbal assaults of IDPs. In some of the incidents, IDP families were expressly informed that the harassment and arrest were due to the perceived affiliation of one of their family members. Protection partners identified in October 2018, a total of 217 people who were previously detained for over 6 months but released after their innocence was proved. The Incident Matrix is a tool currently used in Qayyarah camps but it is going to be roll out in other Ninewa camps.
AP: NPC and CCCM Cluster to share the infographics from the Incident Matrix.
- **Access to certified education:** Protection partners continue to report cases of children without documentation denied enrolment to schools. The Education Cluster has shared a letter from the Ministry of Education which highlights, among other points, the decision to allow children without documentation to enroll to school upon the receipt of a written pledge by parents. Protection partners will support dissemination of and monitor the implementation of the decision. Protection partners are also encouraged to report cases of children enrolled to schools who are unable to receive certificate upon completion of studies due to the lack of documentation.

2b. Strategic Update from C/S PWG

- **Displacement trend - Anbar** - Secondary displacement continued in Anbar during the reporting period. It is reported that 50 families originally from Qaim, Anah, Rawa and Heet moved from KRI and Baghdad to AAF camps of Anbar using private transportation. Lack of available services, livelihood opportunities and camp closure plans are reported as main reasons for these movements.
- Ongoing forced displacement and relocation from Bzebiz camps and informal sites (advocacy conducted by NPC at higher level through engagement with HC and HCT members), ongoing monitoring from partners.
- **Return – Anbar** - During the reporting period, 69 IDP families returned voluntarily from AAF, Kilo 18, Bzebiz and HTC camps to Fallujah, Qaim and Ramadi by convoy escorted by ISF, using private vehicles.
- **Protection Concerns – Anbar** – Pro-government armed groups started clearing houses used or occupied by them in Al-Karablah sub-district of Qaim to encourage IDPs to return to their area of origin.
- **Security incidents and military operations:** intensive security procedure (at checkpoints) in Heet and Ramadi after the ISF arrested few extremists leaders who had returned back to the area. Allegedly, it is claimed that extremist elements are trying to reinforce their sleeper cells in Anbar. Local and security authorities closed Kilo 18 camp and relocated of 161 IDP families to HTC. The relocation movement started on 3 December. Many of the IDPs did not want to be relocated so they chose to prematurely return to their areas of origin. 101 families preferred to return to their areas of origin in Al-Qaim, Heet, Rutba, Ana, Ramadi and Saqlawiyah instead of relocating to HTC camp.
- **Collective punishment and denial of return for some families due to accusations of perceived affiliation with extremists during the reporting period.** On 18 November, 9 families originally from Ramadi were evicted by the host community after their return from Kilo 18 camp. The families installed tents near one of the tribe leaders in Ramadi and requested their intervention. On 20 November, the families were allowed to access their neighbourhood of origin. Some efforts are still contentious in order to put an end to the collective punishment and facilitate the return of IDPs alleged to have perceived affiliations with extremists. On 19 November, meeting chaired by the Head of Sunni Endowment was conducted in Ramadi with participation of several tribal leaders and local authorities and local NGOs. The meeting emphasized reconciliation and co-existence initiatives and encouraging coordination between the tribes with authorities in providing protection to the returnees. No clear plans of action or timeframe was reached to during the meeting. Also, during a meeting on 18 November between Qaim Mayor and security actors, including the pro-government armed groups, the participants agreed on facilitating the return of IDPs and to arrest actors that blackmail returnees during the security screening or upon on their return.

2c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster

- **Overview** - GBV partners across Iraq continued to respond to IDPs through mobile teams and static centers in camps and out-of camp locations in a coordinated way by conducting safety audits as part of risk mitigation and by providing psychological first aid, PSS and GBV case management. Recreational activities were also organized as entry points to these services.
- Camp consolidation/closure process is ongoing in Anbar, Baghdad and Salah al-Din. Kilo 18 camp was closed as of the 1st week of December. Notice was made to close Bzebiz camp, starting from this week, which would affect about 1,500 families.
- **Achievements/ Response** - GBV partners responded to the areas affected by the flood caused by the heavy rain in Shirqat, Salah al-Din, Diyala. Ninewa, Sulaymaniyah by distributing around 5000 dignity kits.
- At the federal government level, a series of consultation workshops were organized for updating the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women, involving government officials, CSOs, WG members and UN agencies. National strategy to combat violence against women and girls was launched by the Government of Iraq with support from UNFPA on December 9.
- 16 days of activism events took place on 26 November in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Ninewa. 16 days of activism event was launched officially by the Federal Government of Iraq on 26 November with attendance of the Secretary-General for the Council of Ministers, Minister for Youth, Director-General of Women Empowerment Department, Deputy Minister for Higher Education, other government officials, Embassies and CSOs.
- **Needs/ Gaps** - Conservative social norms as a challenge, which contributes early/child marriages and depriving education opportunities from girls.
- Limited livelihood support and legal support for GBV survivors, particularly in CS, Diyala and Ninewa.
- Limited number of psychiatrists available to provide specialized MHPSS service (West Anbar).
- Restricted movement for IDPs in Bzebiz and HTC camps.
- There is no sufficient GBV services in the liberated areas (Al-Adheem and Saadiya Subdistricts) in Diyala.

- In Diyala, transportation issues also continued to be a barrier for beneficiaries to access services, particularly in areas outside the camps.
- Lack of GBV services in Ba'aj, Sunini and West Mosul areas especially the old city areas

2d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster

- **CP Case management:** the process of reviewing the CP Case Management SOPs commenced in a workshop hosted by SCI on 25th November. All CP partners implementing CM are expected to contribute to it.
 - A new component on Justice for Children and Legal framework was added to the SOPs
 - First draft is expected before end of year
- CP case management (including all partners operating in Iraq) were invited to discuss the results and recommendations from the **Data Protection Impact Assessment - DPIA and the development of an Information Sharing Protocol** as part of the CPIMS+ Pilot process. The workshop was hosted by IRC on 13th December.
- The **structured PSS “Little fellows model”** TOT by War Child targeting approximately 22 partner staff (including DoLSA) was held from 10th Dec to 16th Dec
- The **UNHCR supported Triangle (TGH) CP capacity building project for DoLSA** was reviewed in a workshop on 12th December. The generated lessons learned will inform future Government CP capacity building initiatives.
- The Iraq CPSC was represented in the **No Lost generation (NLG) workshop in Amman (4th and 5th December)** with a theme “Taking Stock and Looking Forward”. NLG is a regional initiative by the United Nations, international and non-governmental organizations, and governments, to alleviate the impact of the Syrian crisis on a generation of children and young people in Syria and neighbouring countries including Iraq. Participants to the workshop will share lessons and recommendations with the CPSC partners.

2e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster

- Iraq MA AoR (MASC) together with its members and in coordination with the national mine action authorities (Directorate of Mine Action – DMA and Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency – IKMAA) and UNMAS is in the process of finalising the Mine Action Portfolio. This is a country specific portal, managed by UNMAS globally, which should give an overview of the planned response from the humanitarian mine action sector in Iraq, including national and international partners, as per the national mine action strategy, and in coordination with the national mine action authorities – DMA and IKMAA. The MA Portfolio should be rolled out at the annual UN Advisors and National Directors meeting in Geneva beginning of February 2019 and it is meant to highlight the level of EH contamination issue and the scope of the response for advocacy, as well as for policy and donor purposes.
- **Access** - MASC is continuously receiving information about humanitarian partners who have been denied access through certain check-points or have had access to certain areas of operations denied or suspended by third party armed actors and/or civilian local authorities/government officials. Additionally, MA humanitarian partners have reported that some of the national operations staff have been taken off the JCC list in an apparently random process and their movement is thus restricted. There is no clear explanation as for why this has been done. The MASC would like to continue to highlight the access issue and raise serious concern for such obstruction of humanitarian activities. The MASC will be engaging in more in depth discussions with the affected humanitarian mine action partners and will be seeking solutions through the Access Working Group as well as the Protection Cluster, OCHA, and/or HCT to look into possible solutions to the situation.
- **Visa** - MA partners have reported improvements in acquiring visas for their international staff, which in turn enhances the operational efficiency of mine action activities. The MASC welcomes this positive change and will continue to monitor the situation, report and act accordingly.
- **Explosives, ISF and response** - In Federal Iraq, only ISF is authorised to use explosives to render items safe. The MASC continues to advocate for the use of specialised equipment other than explosives to facilitate activities of HMA operators.
- **Reporting of Explosive Hazards by UN Cluster and Sub-Cluster Members and UN Agencies**
 Soon the link to the UNMAS online EH reporting form will be embedded in the NCCI website front page, for ease of finding. The link below is to be used for reporting the sighting of explosive hazards or suspected explosive hazards in liberated 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'.
Reminder to all: Do not approach or touch suspected explosive hazards.**

- **Risk Education (RE) and MA Planning** - MASC continues to encourage humanitarian partners to attend RE awareness sessions and urges humanitarian colleagues to contact the MASC, an accredited MA organisation or the national authorities for more information on safe behavior and necessary measures as part of their own project planning and implementation. MASC will share information through the PC on UNMAS Explosive Hazard (EH) Awareness Training for Humanitarian Workers. UNMAS continues to regularly organise Explosive Hazard (EH) Awareness Training for Humanitarian Workers. For more information on this please contact UNMAS RE Consultant, Celine Cheng at celine.cheng@unmas-iraq.org or the MASC Coordinator, Kristina Duric at iraqmineactionaor@unops.org.
- **Residential Area Clearance** - The MASC will soon share a briefing note on the status of residential area clearance (RAC) in Iraq through the Protection Cluster.
AP: Mine Action Sub-Cluster to provide updates on the topic.

2f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster

- HLP SC and its partners have been engaged in high level advocacy on HLP compensation and budgetary allocation with multiple stakeholders in Baghdad
- HLP SC, with the support of the HLP AOR and NRC, conducted a two day training on **“securing tenure in shelter operations” for Shelter, HLP and CCCM SAG members and field partners.**
- HLP SC will be supporting field partners on the current compensation scheme, steps and gaps related to it through training sessions and capacity building exercises across the main governorates.
- HLP SC, through one of its major partners, is responding to reports of a high number of **damaged/destroyed properties and lost property documents** in the **f in the district of Tel Keif, Ninewa governorate. HLP actors are visiting the area today and assessing the type of assistance that will be provided.**
- HLP SC has finalized the property compensation guidance note, pending endorsement by the HLP Strategic Advisory Group. The document aims at supporting field partners and service providers in their activities related to compensation.
AP: HLP Sub Cluster to clarify if budgetary allocations have been decided for Return Grants and Compensation for destroyed property by the GOI.

2g. Strategic Update from CwC Task Force

- **Awareness Raising Materials** - The CwC Taskforce reviewed Winterisation information package for 2017 to decide whether to change, update or add any of the messaging. The Taskforce have decided not to change any of the messaging and endorsed the usage of the 2017 info pack through Protection and CCCM partners. Partners however, are expected to print their own copies for distribution.
- **Capacity Building** - CwC have supported Ninewa Protection Working Group in their capacity building sessions for Community Resource Centres (CRCs) in both East and West Mosul. CwC contributed by facilitating a session on Accountability to Affected Population and Communication with Communities to CRC staff from both genders. CwC facilitated two Training of Trainers sessions for the rollout of the Know Before You Go (KBYG) messaging. Sessions took place in Basra and Erbil with the support of Central South and Erbil Protection Working Group respectively. Sessions also included an introduction to AAP and CwC. Additional reading materials about best practices about Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Face to Face (F2F) communication were made available through a Dropbox folder.

2h. Update from NPC

- **Update on HNO/HRP process** – Final HNO document is under finalization and will be launched in December. All Clusters have received final draft version of the HRP narrative to comment on; once comments are provided, Clusters will share the document with OCHA. HRP launch should happen in early January. For the HRP, the Protection Cluster reviewed 127 projects, rejected 50 which did not meet established criteria (including assessment of their operational capacity to implemented), and approved 77 well-formulated and feasible projects that were in line with Cluster Objectives and NPC’s geographic priorities. The NPC HRP portfolio is of 165M USD. OCHA raised some issues re: **(1) Peaceful co-existence issue** and **(2) Operational Capacity of Partners to Implement.**
(1) The NPC quickly produced a position paper highlighting the distinction between peaceful co-existence activities (that should fall under the HRP) and social cohesion activities (that fall under the RRP). Following UNHCR’s meeting with HC, NPC requested all the partners who have included peaceful co-existence activities in their HRP 2019 projects to ensure that their activities and targeted locations are in line with the

approach endorsed by the HC (i.e. short-term peaceful co-existence activities imbedded in ongoing community-based protection interventions, primarily targeting areas of displacement, not in return areas). Partners' adjustments did not translate in budgetary reduction of NPC portfolio, but adjustments in the areas of interventions by partners.

(2) **Operational capacity of partners to implement** in light on substantial increase in budget and targets compared to 2018 (\$65 million requested in 2018 vs. \$162 in 2019). The NPC explained that Partner's budget & activity targets are based on their country/operational plans. In other words, partners are best placed articulate what they can achieve if given the resources to do so. A major proportion of the General Protection budget (\$67 million) went to large projects from key partners (e.g. \$20 million for UNHCR, \$13 million for DRC, and \$5-6 million for IRC & NRC, etc.). These large UN and INGO partners have demonstrated capacity to implement, and in many cases have already secured funding for 2019. However, NPC acknowledges that we are less confident that risk-averse donors will fund projects directly submitted by NNGOs. OCHA's HFU and ICCG will need to look at how the next round of IHF Allocation can contribute to funding NNGOs as part of our Grand Bargain localization commitments.

- **Update on 2018/2019 IHF Standard Allocation - General Protection + HLP:** Seven projects received. At Strategic Review stage, one project was excluded because they targeted areas outside of IHF priority locations set by the Cluster. At Technical Review stage, six projects were reviewed by GP+HLP SC SAG. In the end, four projects were recommended for approval. Priority activities in the recommended projects include: protection monitoring, legal assistance (including HLP), awareness raising (including HLP), and community-based protection.
- **GBV:** Seven projects received. At Strategic Review stage, one project was excluded because they didn't submit project into OPS. At Technical Review stage, six projects were reviewed by GBV SC SAG. In the end, two projects were approved. Priority activities in the recommended projects include: Safety audits to mitigate GBV risks, psychosocial support services, and GBV case management services, strengthening of referral pathways, community-led GBV awareness raising, strengthening male networks, mentoring and coaching of front-line workers.
- **Child Protection:** 12 projects received. At Strategic Review stage, five projects were excluded because they didn't submit projects into OPS or they targeted areas outside of IHF priority locations set by the Cluster. Seven projects were technically reviewed by CP SAG members, including two stand-alone CP projects; and five integrated (4 CP/Education and 1 CP/WASH) projects. In the end, four projects were recommended for approval (two stand-alone projects; and two integrated with Education projects). Priority activities in the recommended stand-alone CP projects include: provision of CP social case management services, capacity building of front-line case workers; establish / update referral pathways, parenting programs; strengthening community-based CP approach. Priority activities in the recommended projects integrated with Education include: structured PSS program in learning spaces, training of teachers / social workers in learning spaces on CP, referral pathways, code of conduct (child safe guarding) and PSS, training of School Management Committees and Parents and Teachers Associations on CP related issues.
- **Mine Action:** Three projects received. At Strategic Review stage, one project was excluded as the organisation did not submit project into the Projects Module as part of the 2019 HRP, which was a requirement as per IHF guidelines. At Technical Review stage, two projects were reviewed by MA SC SAG. In the end, two projects were approved. Priority activities in the recommended projects include: survey, clearance and risk education.
- In 2019, discussion on how to support localization and funding for NNGOs should be pushed forward to ensure that Grand Bargain commitments are fully implemented.

2i. Updates from RPA mechanism

- Khazouga, Chiri and Sibaya villages, Rabia district, Ninewa governorate

The returned households of these three villages are residing in poor conditions with no access to electricity, limited water supply, no income or livelihood options, limited or no education opportunities, no health facility, and restricted freedom of movement due to social tensions with surrounding communities.

- Rakaba Saghira village (Tel Keif district) and Sheikh Malwan village (Shekhan district), Ninewa governorate

The returnees have no access to basic services, no electricity, water supply, livelihood options, education opportunities or health facility, as well as inadequate shelter. The protection concerns are exacerbated by the unclear jurisdictional status of the villages, as to whether the Iraqi Federal Government or the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) are responsible for supporting these villages through basic services or improved infrastructure.

- **RPAs completed (findings to be shared next NPC)**

Areas of return in northern Ninewa

- Kilo 7, Anbar governorate
- Rafeat village, SAD
- Badoush town, Ninewa governorate
- **RPA's upcoming**
 - Western Anbar
 - Hawija
 - Areas of return in Salah al-Din.

3. AOB

a. **REACH Initiative presentation on Intentions Survey findings** – REACH Initiative presented the findings of the intentions survey (elaborated together with CCCM Cluster) conducted between July and August 2018 in formal IDPs camps and informal sites hosting 100 or more IDPs HHs. Main conclusion are:

1. Only 9% of households reported an intention to return to their AoO over the 12 months, with 6% overall intending to return within 3 months (by October/November 2018).
2. This indicates that a large proportion of the protracted caseload reportedly do not intend to return before mid-2019, and that the majority of those that intended to return have likely done so to date
3. Reported reasons for not returning (of IDPs not intending to return over 12 months) and need to enable return, all indicate that IDP concerns about safety and security in returning to their AoO persist, and therefore present a continued barrier to returns
4. In addition to this, the after-effects of conflict, such as damage to housing, availability of basic services, and livelihoods opportunities, continue to affect movement intentions
5. Although the specific factors presenting barriers to return may differ across governorates of origin, as well as the proportion of households reporting them, the frequent reporting of needs relating to security and livelihoods indicates that for many in the current protracted caseload, the key barriers to return are rooted in complex and systemic issues that are not likely to be fixed in the short term.

For additional information, please contact Sarah Vose at Sarah.vose@reach-initiative.org.

AP: NPC to share full presentation with partners together with the MOM.

b. **CIVIC presentation on HLP Compensation report** – CIVIC policy brief presents civilians' perspectives on the implementation of Iraq compensation law (law 20/2009 - law 57/2015), focusing on claims for deaths, injuries (processed by the Martyr's Foundation) and house destruction and damage (processed by the central committee). Key findings include: (1) The compensation process is plagued by nepotism and corruption and does not guarantee equal access to all applicants; (2) Onerous evidentiary requirements and cumbersome procedures as well as under resourced structures to process claims create delays and exclude people from the process; (3) The requirement for an additional security clearance delays an already burdensome process; (4) The costs involved and the frequent travel across governorates in gathering the documents necessary to submit a claim are deterring people from applying for compensation, particularly women; (5) The GOI has not made publicly available any information regarding the amount allocated in the 2017 and 2018 budgets for compensation payments, nor has it shared the total amount actually transferred and disbursed to applicants in 2017 and 2018. As a result, the government risks losing the opportunity afforded by the compensation law to rebuild the social contract with its citizens who have lost so much, and to promote socio-economic recovery, social cohesion, and sustainable returns. The report includes recommendations to the GOI, the PMO and governors, relevant Ministries as well as Compensation sub committees, central committee and the Martyr's Foundation to ensure a more accessible, fair, and effective compensation process. <https://civiliansinconflict.org/publications/policy/we-hope-but-we-are-hopeless-policy-brief/>

- Next NPC meeting to be held on 17 January from 11:00 am to 1:00pm.