



## National Protection Cluster

Minutes of Meeting (18 April 2019)

Locations: UNHCR Baghdad, NCCI Erbil, plus Webex

Chaired by: Mohammed Khan (NPC Coordinator)

1. Review of Action Points from 14 March meeting
2. Strategic & Thematic Updates:
  - a. Strategic Update from KR-I PWG (15 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 Iraqi returnees from Al Hol/NE Syria; Update on Workshops on “Protection of Vulnerable IDPs/Returnees” across Iraq; Update on Service Advisor (15 mins)
  - i. Update from RPA mechanism (10 mins)
3. Presentation by WFP on IDP Targeting Exercise (10 mins)
4. Presentation by NRC/IRC/DRC on “Unlocking Iraq’s Civil Documentation System” research – (15 mins)
5. AOB (5 mins)

1. Review of Action Points from 14 March meeting – None.

Minutes adopted without amendments.

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

#### Erbil

- **Gwer:** According to Protection actors, up to 200 families in different areas of Erbil are prevented to return to six villages of origin in Gwer area. Reportedly, families have submitted return applications to Asayish and civil authorities under Ninewa administrative control, but have not received any response. IDPs from one village noted that the location is militarized with several families reporting having their properties confiscated for military use. IDPs from remaining villages highlight the complex environment resulting from the disputed nature of the area as the reason for lack of response. Majority have reported their houses sustained severe damages.
- **Hasansham:** An estimated 3,000 IDPs in Hasansham U2, Hasansham U3 and Khazer M1 continue to be denied return to 11 surrounding villages. The situation of those denied to return is further impacted by movement restriction and reduction of services. With the reduction of humanitarian food assistance in recent months, IDP families are compelled to pursue livelihood opportunities outside camps to supplement household income. However, IDPs have highlighted concerns over movement restrictions, i.e. residents are required to obtain authorization by Asayish to be able to leave the camps for specified periods. The return of these 3,000 individuals to Hasansham villages would significantly mitigate the consequences of reduced services and assistance for the camp population, and advance possible internal consolidation processes.

#### Dohuk and Ninewa:

- **Situation of disputed villages:** Protection partners have carried out several assessment in disputed areas, including in Shekhan district. Key findings have consistently highlighted lack of access to basic services, livelihood options, education opportunities or health facility, as well as inadequate shelter. Protection concerns are exacerbated by the unclear jurisdictional status of the villages, as to whether the Iraqi Federal Government or the Kurdish Regional Government are responsible for supporting these villages through basic services or improved infrastructure.
- **Returns of extremist’s survivors from Syria:** Humanitarian actors have identified a gradual although small number (overall number not known) of spontaneous returns of survivors from extremists. Yazidi communities have established support systems for those returning, which includes first-line response. Most of the cases move to Dohuk camps to reunite with relatives, although some are also told to reunite to Yazidi communities in out of camp areas. Main needs are identified in camps and include specialized MHPSS and health assistance. Humanitarian actors have also noted needs in child reintegration programmes for children released from captivity.

#### Ninewa:

- Humanitarian actors continue to register recurring violations of the civilian and humanitarian character of IDP camps in Ninewa governorate. From January to March 2019, both protection and non-protection partners in Qayyarah Jed'ah (1 to 6), Airstrip, Hajj Ali and Hammam Al Ali (1 and 2) camps recorded 42 incidents involving a total of 51 violations. 13 out of 42 incidents (31 per cent) involved incursions by armed security actors into camps, in violation of the Prime Ministerial Directive on "Maintaining the civilian character of camps" of 3 April 2017. However, the majority of the incidents were more complex in nature, involving multiple violations on top of armed security actors' incursions into camps (e.g. arbitrary detention/arrest; mistreatment of IDPs, including forms of verbal and/or physical assaults; GBV incidents, including sexual exploitation and abuse). In over ten per cent of the cases, officials verbally indicated to the victim/survivor that the violation was due to an actual or perceived affiliation of the victim/survivor's relative to extremists.

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

- Anbar - GRC-Anbar:** On 15<sup>th</sup> of April, the Anbar GRC meeting was held in Baghdad; main outcomes below:
  - The governor's advisor clearly stated that there will be no closure of camps in Anbar in the near future. In addition, a clear statement was made that the actions carried out by community leaders are NOT in line with the governorate's policy.
  - The barriers to return can be combined in two main categories: 1: security and safety concerns, and fear of retaliation and lack of community acceptance; 2: lack of basic services.
  - The humanitarian community and the governorate of Anbar need to work closely to activate initiatives targeting "Social cohesion and peace building at the sub-districts/town level", besides discussing steps to enhance the quality of life in return areas before returns take place.
  - Assistance provided in areas of return should include the "remainees" (meaning those who never displaced/left the area) to avoid creating any further discrimination/tensions between returnees and "remainees".
- Secondary displacement continued in Anbar during the reporting period. It is reported that 4 families, originally from Al-Qaim, moved from Erbil and Baghdad to HTC and AAF camps of Anbar. Inability to pay for rent, lack of livelihood opportunities were the main reasons for these movements. During the reporting period, 134 IDP families returned voluntarily from AAF and HTC camps to different areas of origin in Anbar. MoMD and the ISF facilitated the return of majority of these families, while a few returned using private means of transportation. Families and local authorities of Rawa districts informed about the need for intervention from mine action specialist to clear the houses. Unprincipled return: In the last month, a shift in the return trend was monitored where tribal leaders, supported by armed actors went to camps and pressured communities from the areas of Husay, Qarma and Saqlawya to return. The pressure emerged in different concerning forms like confiscation of IDs and security badges, threats of future denial of return, security related threats (eg. adding the names of male IDPs to counter-terrorism ISF databases, and shaming women for being engaged in prostitution activities in the camps). As a result, several families signed in to return.
- A premature return movement was observed during the reporting period. On 19 March 2019, nine families decided to return from HTC to Saqlawiyah, after a tribe leader's visit to HTC and AAF to meet IDPs and identify reasons behind the non-return. During the Sheikh's visit to AAF, the Anbar Operations Command (AOC) confiscated national IDs of 11 heads of HHs to force the families to return. The IDs were returned to the families after humanitarian partners advocated with the tribe leader and AoC. During the Sheikh's visit to HTC, two men raised concerns regarding their name similarity. Later, the two men were detained by AOC; their families reported that they are not aware of the detention/investigation location. Few NGOs reported that many IDPs are not willing to return to Al-Hussay village in Fallujah due to imposed "protection fees" in addition to other obstacles, like lack of services and shelter damage. One family was banned from returning to its area of origin in Jazerat Al-Khaldiyah due to tribal issues related to allegations regarding affiliations with extremists. Reportedly, the family has made several attempts to negotiate with tribal and security actors but they were unable to resolve the issue. The family now lives in HTC camp.
- Security incidents – several security incidents occurred in different areas of Anbar Governorate (Al-Qaim, Haditha, Rawa, Ramadi, Rutba, Karabla and Heet). The incidents have led to the intensification of security measures, thus impacting on IDPs' intentions to return to their areas of origin.
- Salah al-Din - Security incidents** occurred during the reporting period and resulted in the killing of the head of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion-Federal Police, and PMF elements.
- Displacement due to torrential rains - Salah al Din Governorate is one of the Governorates currently experiencing flooding as an effect of the heavy seasonal rains in late March/early April. The torrential rains drastically increased the water levels of the Tigris River and its tributaries resulting into the flooding of some areas in SAD. Due to this, individuals have been temporary evacuated, structures have been damaged. The affected districts and villages include: Tikrit district – Al Alam sub district (Fendi Hawija, Al Aeali Hawija, Albu

Ajeel, Chiwan, Hawiga and Rubaidha), Baiji District (Al Hamra, Msahhaq, Jerish and Zoweya) and Samara District (Saleh, Al Qadriya Alhasan). According to OCHA, an estimated 550 families have been evacuated due to flooding (numbers keep fluctuating), and five informal tented sites have been established for the temporarily displaced population in Baiji, Samarra and Tikrit districts; although to date these sites are still empty since many people have provisionally settled with friends and relatives. The Government of Iraq through the MoDM has been quick to respond with provision of food parcels to the affected population. Other Humanitarian partners have also responded with distribution of hygiene / dignity kits, drinking water and water trucking and are ready to respond further by providing a mobile water treatment plant and other essential items, like NFIs (mattresses, blankets, kitchen set, and kerosene heaters), latrines and cash for emergency cases. Partners have continued to undertake protection monitoring in the areas of displacement to better support the response.

- ***Informal Sites – Eviction updates*** - Eviction threats have been received by families living in a number of informal sites in Tikrit: on 27<sup>th</sup> March: 18 HH in Tikrit POST Building informal site were told by the Contractor to leave within 1 week, or the Police would be informed to evict them; on 25<sup>th</sup> March: 33 HH in Tikrit OVEN informal site were told by Salah al Din Police that families without destroyed houses should leave to AoO. HH are required to have a memo issued by the Judge to confirm destruction of house; 50 HH in QUBAA School informal site were visited by the Mukhtar and told to leave the site; 6 families from Shirqat in Al Karama camp are under threat of eviction by the SAD Operations command.
- **Najaf** - 1,735 individuals are affected by scabies (some of them are IDPs). The Directorate of Health conducted assessment but there is shortage in required medicine. ***Return*** – the number of returnees in the reporting period is 215 families from Karbala, Babil, Najaf & Wassit to areas of origin in Ninewa.

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

- **GBV actors across different governorates commemorated International Women’s day**, under the local theme *"Think equal, build smart, innovate for change"*. In Baghdad, the commemoration was organized by Women Empowerment Department in the State Ministry of Women Affairs together with IMC. In Dohuk, partners organized different activities in camps and non-camps, through delivering GBV sessions, seminars, theaters, music and dance activities. In Sulaymaniyah, the event was attended by the government, civil society, the GBV working group members and other actors. Activities included singing from the Yazidi Music Group, traditional music, dance, and awards for female and male champions who have challenged gender norms or have fought for gender equality. There was free health awareness and testing.
- **Strengthening referral pathway with local authorities and leaders** - In Central South, GBV partners are proactively establishing working relationships with local authorities, tribal leaders and health centers to facilitate smooth referrals of GBV cases. GBV partners are closely monitoring and liaising with local authorities and other humanitarian actors for the flood response (in Salah al-Din).
- In Kirkuk, GBV WG members have prioritized tackling Sexual harassment in camps by engaging all the stakeholders within the camps (GBV actors, Legal, Protection, CCCM and camp management), where key action points have been agreed upon.
- **Needs/ Gaps** - Decreasing availability of humanitarian funding has resulted into closure of some of GBV service programs in Erbil, Central South and Dohuk. In Sulaymaniyah, this has affected GBV activities across camps and outside camps, including health, women centers. Government is still reluctant in most cases to take over services due to inadequate resources. Lack of availability of psychiatrists against the huge needs for mental health services. There is also a need for having trained counselors at schools. In addition, CMR services in Kirkuk is lacking and Sinuni hospital is still unable to find female gynecologist staff. Limited livelihood support and legal support for GBV survivors. In Kirkuk, this affects mostly Hawija female headed households. Need for dignity kits for women and girls across different governorates.

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

- Three rounds of CPIMS+ user trainings will conclude today. The agencies joining for Dohuk pilot will be signing the ISP and Terms of Use by the end of April. Final configuration of the platform will be completed this week.
- Case Management SOP for KRI is on the final review (the last round of comments was 31 March). Case Management SOP for Federal Iraq will be also reviewed, especially as far as the legal framework sections are concerned.
- Livelihood Cluster / Cash WG coordination has been strengthened. Vulnerability criteria for the newly starting project will be shared with CPSC members in the areas of operation.
- Global Child Survivor Initiative (CSI) will be re-branded as Child and Adolescent Survivor Initiative (CASI) in 2019, and, at the global level, there is a discussion on the second phase. CPSC is reviewing if Iraq should be part of the second phase.

- Global education cluster retreat was held 27-29 March in Amman. This year's theme was education and CP integration, and there will be a continuous effort of CP/Education programmatic integration.

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

- Kristina Duric, MASC Coordinator has left the country. UNMAS is currently recruiting her replacement and UNMAS colleagues will alternate staff to cover her role. In the mean time you may continue to write to the email address: [iraqmineactionaor@unops.org](mailto:iraqmineactionaor@unops.org). Note that Lubna Saleeh the MASC Co-Coordinator is also reachable at the following address: [Lubnasab771@npaid.org](mailto:Lubnasab771@npaid.org). The HLP and MA guidance note is currently going through the last phase of reviews by the MASC Members for their input, specifically related to technical and operational content. The guidance note has been reviewed by HLP colleagues. The final product will be shared through the PC network next week.
- **Access** - The issue of access through checkpoints seems to have stabilized in comparison to last months. What we notice is that obstacles regarding check-points come in waves – there are periods when all is fine and then the situation suddenly deteriorates. It seems that there is a disconnect between chains of command where despite having all access letters in order from a central authority, the people at the check points are not always aware of the letters. MA partners are being turned around and not allowed access, regardless of all access letters being in order, and held up for hours, which halts the life-saving operations and comes at a great cost, as well.
- **Accreditation** - Despite the improvements in accreditation of humanitarian mine action NGOs, however we still continue to advocate for a clearer, consistent and transparent accreditation process. Related to this as well, the MASC will also continue to advocate for a clear and consistent task approval and reporting processes as partners are facing different and changing scenarios, which in turn inevitably negatively impacts operational efficiency and delivery of life saving mine action activities. As of 20 March 2019, the Directorate of Mine Action Director General was removed from his post therefore the sector (NGOs and UN) will renew advocacy efforts once the new leadership is appointed.
- **Explosives, ISF and response** - We still continue the advocacy for use of explosives for humanitarian mine action operations. The situation, unfortunately still remains the same where in Federal Iraq, only ISF is authorised to use explosives to render items safe, which impacts the safety of operations, but also the security in the area, as items are left uncovered, rendered safe, but undestroyed.
- **Reporting Explosive Hazards** - It came to the MASC attention that the DMA and Civil Defence hotlines are not always working. This has been communicated to DMA who is currently trying to fix the issue. Also a kind reminder to all to please use and inform through your networks that all should use DMA or Civil Defence hotlines for reporting suspected explosive hazards. The numbers are **182** and **115** and are accessible through all of Iraq without any specific dial code, as it was misunderstood before. Additionally, all are also encouraged to contact the MASC at [iraqmineactionaor@unops.org](mailto:iraqmineactionaor@unops.org) and we can also liaise with our members for rapid response capacities. MASC encourages all to inform about and utilise the IDP Call Centre, from which we obtain referral cases. Finally, there is the UNMAS online reporting tool for humanitarian partners and UN agencies, as well as the cluster system, which you may find embedded into the NCCI website, as well.
- **Reporting of Explosive Hazards by UN Cluster and Sub-Cluster Members and UN Agencies** - The UNMAS online EH reporting form is now embedded in the NCCI website front page, for ease of finding: <https://www.ncciraq.org/en/>. 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!
- **MA Programming and reporting** - Recent floods in Misan have raised concern over “uprooting” of legacy landmines. MASC members deployed in the area will provide risk education to affected populations in coordination with the Child Protection Sub Cluster. Gender: MASC members are training female deminers to operate in the areas of Bashiqa-

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

- HLP SC now has new acting Co-coordinator who will be covering this position until NRC will hire a full-time dedicated Co-coordinator.

- HLP SC has completed its contribution to MA guidance titled MA-HLP Guidance note. From HLP SC perspective, the guidance aims to establish a systematic referral for HLP disputes and other HLP related issues, such as ensuring protection of HLP and tenure rights that need to be considered by MA partners in the planning phase or before they develop any activity or undertake any operation in the field. Moreover, it provides short and practical guidance to understand the necessary steps that need to be considered (such as understanding the HLP framework, compensation scheme in Iraq, coordination with local community and their leaders to address HLP issue, HLP ownership documentation, undertake HLP due diligence and awareness raising).
- HLP SC has completed second round quarter of service mapping across the country. As there are turnover since last quarter and after the completion of the service mapping, HLP SC will establish new focal points across the governorates and intending to extend HLP coverage in the country.
- HLP SC has asked partner to increase their capacity to support IDPs to file claims for property compensation and advocate with governorate counterparts on compensation scheme and address findings that were identified on advocacy note. Moreover, HLP SC had discussed with member of Compensation Sub-committee to discuss the findings on advocacy note and see possibilities how to address and improve services related to claims for property compensation. However, it has been emphasized that the needs are high in order to make fully operational all the offices. HLP SC is working with one of its partners to see how we can support Ninewa Compensation Sub-committee to increase the level and the quality of services for claimants who wants to file claims for compensation. We have been informed that so far 8 offices are already opened across Ninewa governorate and another one in Sinjar is due to be opened in near future.
- Another meeting was conducted with Central Real Estate/Land Registry Office in Baghdad to discuss the situation of HLP documentation in Iraq, in particular in Ninewa governorate. The meeting focused on how the HLP documentation are maintained, the scale of registered property rights and informal property rights, what is the scale of the damaged/destroyed property record and what are the plans to restore the damaged/destroyed documents to governorate.

## 2g. Strategic Update from CwC Task Force

- **Awareness Raising Materials** - Few copies short of 260 of anti-marriage coloring books were distributed by UNHCR and ACTED in Dibaga, Harsham, Baharka, Khazir, Hassansham camps (Erbil). A final draft of “Repairing of shelters damaged by war” messaging which was prepared by Shelter Cluster, HLP and CwC is awaiting final review and approval.
- **Capacity Building** - One training of trainers for the Know Before You Go messaging took place during the month of April, with Sulymanyah Protection Working group that was attended by 28 (20F, 8M) representatives from 9 different partner organisations; One capacity building session for first line staff was conducted with the IDP Information Centre operators.
- **Coordination** - Mapping of Community Outreach volunteers has been concluded in Erbil and Dohuk, the mapping allows profiling of (COVs) in terms of age, gender, skills and the communities they work in; in addition to the proper channels to follow in order to make use of their efforts. Final report is yet to be shared with partners; CwC is providing support to humanitarian partners in countering scam text messages sent to different affected communities through SMS. Three different fraud and phishing scam had been identified:
  - SMS asking [refugees] to come for a resettlement appointments at the Canadian Embassy in Baghdad;
  - Emails and online posts promising cash assistance by UNESCO;
  - An online KOBO survey for (Syrian refugees in North Iraq) demanding personal information;

## 2h. Update from NPC

- **Update on Iraqi returnees from Al Hol, north-eastern Syria:** NPC has drafted operational guidance entitled “Considerations with respect to Provision of Humanitarian and Protection Assistance to Iraqis Repatriated from Al Hol camp, north-eastern Syria” (4 April 2019), which was endorsed by NPC SAG. The guidance aims to: (i) Outline overall protection considerations that should be taken into account by all humanitarian partners intending to deliver a principled response to Iraqis repatriated from Syria; (ii) Outline key considerations with respect to various facilities through which returnees from Al Hol will likely pass in Iraq, including Al Fao or another border crossing point, security screening site(s), transit site(s), destination camps, out-of-camp locations or areas of origin; and (iii) Clarify the role of humanitarian and particularly protection partners within those facilities, in terms of engagement with and protection of returnees during the uncertain scenarios that partners may face. In addition, all Clusters/ICCG are drafting on an Al Hol Operational Response Plan, with sectoral interventions in each of the aforementioned sites. Both documents will be shared with the GoI once finalized, as well as with all humanitarian partners. The GoI has not provided concrete information to the humanitarian community on the timelines for the return movements. However, they have indicated that some

initial security screening may take place on the Syria side, and they have apparently accepted that returnees will be accommodated in existing Ninewa camps instead of a separate camp (Amalla). They have also indicated that returns will be voluntary. Kurdish self-administration authorities in Al Hol are presently working to return seized ID documents to residents of Al Hol camp. Iraqis will not be able to return without documents. GoI authorities are considering the possibility of issuing Iraqi civil documents in Al Hol through mobile civil registries. NPC/UNHCR and CP Sub-Cluster/UNICEF have been liaising with their counterparts on the Syria side to coordinate efforts for the impending repatriation, particularly with respect to return of seized documents, and identification of unaccompanied children. Once the Al Hol Operation Response Plan is released, OCHA will liaise with donors on next steps in terms of funding the scaling up of services/assistance. NPC & Ninewa PWG will continue to update partners on developments.

- **Update on “Protection & Solutions for Vulnerable IDPs/Returnees” workshops:** NPC and CCCM Clusters are planning a series of workshops in 8 governorates across Iraq. The workshops will include content on: (i) the normative framework for protection of vulnerable IDPs/returnees, including international human rights & humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian & protection mainstreaming principles; (ii) key fundamental rights that should be protected; (iii) the principle of the civilian and humanitarian character of camps; (iv) Demonstration on how to report on Kobo-based ‘Perceived Affiliation Rights Violation Tracking Matrix’ + ‘Civilian Character of Camps Matrix’. National Clusters have been invited to nominate two focal points per Cluster to participate. The English language workshops will be held in Baghdad (8 April), Anbar (9 April), Erbil (14 April), Dohuk (15 & 16 April), Ninewa (17 April), Sulimaniyah (23 April), Salah al-Din (29 April), Kerbala (30 April) & Kirkuk (2 May). PWG Coordinators will then repeat the workshops in Arabic (& Kurdish in KRI) for all partners after Eid from mid-June onward.
- **Update on Service Advisor** - Protection Cluster Information Management Officer gave a brief presentation on the Service Advisor that will be utilized as NPC service mapping tool. Service Advisor is an online web platform for cluster coordinators and service providers; it provides up-to-date information about availability of humanitarian services in precise locations and it can also support the referrals between humanitarian actors. In addition, Services Advisor allows users to view available services on an interactive map and in an online service directory, user can filter by category, location, and service provider and eligibility/referral requirements. The tool is expected to be finalized by end of April, NPC IMO will share the template with partners to get them familiar with the type of information that will be requested in the Platform; trainings will be organized across Iraq starting from May 2019.

**AP: NPC members to start preparing their services based on the template that will be circulated in preparation for trainings and data entry; NPC members to assign Service Advisor focal points that will be responsible to manage the entry of the services.**

## 2i. Updates from RPA mechanism

- **RPA Findings** - No RPAs since last NPC – we attempted one in Ninewa, but unable to access the village near Tel Afar due to the road conditions.
  - **RPA trainings** - We hosted two RPA trainings in Tikrit and Diyala, and trained approximately 30 people across both governorates, who are now part of the RPA network.
3. **Presentation by WFP on IDP Targeting Exercise** – WFP focal point presented the targeting exercise that has been rolled out in IDP camps across Iraq. The overall objective of the exercise is to target the most food insecure/vulnerable camp IDPs based on the household income generation and vulnerability. Further details can be asked to Maria ALVAREZ [maria.alvarez@wfp.org](mailto:maria.alvarez@wfp.org)
  4. **Presentation by NRC of NRC/IRC/DRC on “Unlocking Iraq’s Civil Documentation System” research** – As the Iraqi government and the international community continue to invest in the restoration of public services and institutions, ensuring the population most severely affected by the conflict has the documentation required to benefit from these services will be critical. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) conducted a study that identified the barriers to accessing legal and civil documentation in Iraq, and the resulting impact on access to public services across Ninewa, Anbar and Salah Al-Din governorates. This is the first mix methods research piece conducted on this issue in Iraq in recent (included 1400 respondent survey, FGDs, and KIIs). The lack of legal identity and related civil documentation for Iraqis who lived under or fled from the Islamic State group (IS) rule presents a significant barrier to exercising their full rights as Iraqi citizens. The right to be recognised as a person before the law is one of the most basic human rights enshrined in international and Iraqi national law. Having a legal identity enables someone to hold other rights under the law; to have a nationality and freedom of movement, and to access a range of basic services such as education, healthcare and adequate housing.

- Key Findings:

- **The financial cost of issuing, updating or renewing documentation** was stated as the most significant barrier to accessing documentation by 58% of respondents across all three governorates. **Severe overcrowding at civil directorates** was cited by 52% of respondents as another barrier to accessing documentation. **More than half of respondents who lacked valid civil documentation said they had not even attempted to renew or update their documentation** across the three governorates surveyed. Parents who reported missing documentation were also more likely to have children who were also missing some form of ID. Of respondents who reported issues with their legal and civil documentation, 53% also said that their children were missing documentation.
- A significant number of respondents reported issues registering their children without documents in schools. Of those who said their children lacked civil documentation, 18% reported that their children were denied access to education because they lacked the correct legal and civil documentation.
- According to interviews with the Ministry of Health, with the exception of in-patient treatments, access to health care does not officially require civil documentation. However, the FGDs indicated that **while documentation was not required for routine medical visits, the civil ID is required for surgeries or major procedures.**
- Respondents who were missing documentation were less likely to report owning the properties they were residing in or have rental contracts for property they were renting.
- A combination of the civil ID, PDS Card and Residency Card were frequently mentioned as being required to secure employment. This suggests that if more jobs, including within the formal sector, become available in the future, lack of civil documentation would become a significant barrier to accessing work opportunities.

For additional information, please contact Alexandra Saieh, [Alexandra.saieh@nrc.no](mailto:Alexandra.saieh@nrc.no), Naomi Johnstone, [Naomi.johstone@nrc.no](mailto:Naomi.johstone@nrc.no), Tania Marcello, [Tania.Marcello@rescue.org](mailto:Tania.Marcello@rescue.org) and Dave Mariano, [David.mariano@drciraq.dk](mailto:David.mariano@drciraq.dk).

## 5. AOB

The next NPC meeting will be on 16 May from 11am to 1pm.