



National Protection Cluster

Minutes of Meeting (17 October 2019)

Locations: UNHCR Baghdad, Ned Colt Erbil, plus Webex

Chaired by: Claudia Nicoletti (NPC Co-Coordinator)

1. Review of Action Points from 25 September meeting – (5 mins)
2. Strategic & Thematic Updates:
 - a. Strategic Update from Ninewa / KR-I PWGs (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 governorate level workshop findings; Costing Methodology HRP 2020; and Movement Severity Scale (10 mins)
3. AOB

1. Review of Action Points from 25 September meeting

UNHCR to liaise with GBVIM Coordinator wrt parameters/trend analysis on GBV incidents in Iraq to be further shared with wider NPC members.	GBV IMS presentation at 17 October meeting.
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Minutes adopted without amendments.

2a. Strategic Update from KRI & Ninewa PWG

Ninewa

Camp closure and consolidation processes

- Camp closure and consolidation processes continued in Ninewa over the past month but halted in recent days. Jedd'ah 3 consolidated into Jedd'h 1&2 complex and Hammam Al Alil 1 into Hammam Al Alil 2. Significant number of families departed with some relocating to the destination sites. Jedd'ah 4 and 5 are currently in the process of consolidation (by removal of fence in between camps). Consolidations plans for Salamiyah 1 and 2 are also underway. The situation was particularly concerning in Qayyarah Airstrip camp.
 - In the morning of 30 September, 25 members of the police and MoMD unexpectedly announced the closure of Airstrip camp, and informed Ninewa IDPs that they would have to either depart the camp or relocate to Jeddah 5. According to Mosul-level authorities, the incident was an unauthorized and scaled-up response to an initial plan to pilot the relocation of up to 50 families to Jeddah 5 camp to assess the community's reaction and subsequently decide either on the closure or consolidation of Airstrip camp. Following advocacy, actors left the camp for few hours but returned and began confiscating civil documents of heads of households of two sectors. Humanitarian partners and communities described the incident as chaotic, with reports of numerous IDPs attempting to hide in tents in other camp sectors, and others fleeing through holes in the fences. Some IDPs agreed to relocate to Jeddah 5 and the situation ceased after few hours. IDPs have also reported being asked to sign letters stating the voluntariness of the returns despite stating the contrary. In addition, a significant number of IDPs departed the camp both formally and informally. At the time of the meeting, humanitarian actors have received mixed messages about the closure or consolidation of Airstrip camp. Advocacy focused on the importance of keeping the camp opened, particularly considering service levels.
- According to DTM, between August 15 and October 15, 16,584 households left camps for non-camp settings and 3,552 households have moved between camps. Over 100 families (more than 460 individuals) have reached East-Mosul camps as a result of the recent developments in Ninewa.
- IDPs continue to report fear over the possible consequences of camp consolidation and closures, particularly the potential fate of camps (becoming a *de facto* detention facility), in addition to fears related

to prematurely returning to some areas of origin. The situation is further exacerbated by rumors related to additional phases of camp closure and consolidation (at times spread by local authorities) and dynamics in Syria.

Sulaymaniyah

Governmental and humanitarian actors are currently evaluating the possible closure of Qoratu camp. Surveys are being rolled out to assess the affected communities' intentions and inform decision.

Access to documentation - Ninewa Court of Appeal order

- Following extensive work with Ninewa Civil Affairs Directorate (CAD) and the Ninewa Court of Appeal, the Court of Appeal has reversed a previous instruction from the Court of Investigation for Terrorism preventing issuance of civil documents for family members of people perceived to be affiliated with extremist groups. According to information received, the Court of Appeal instructs Civil Affairs Directorates to issue documents in accordance with Iraqi Law, where denial of documents based on family member affiliation has no bearing. Based on the decision of the Appellate Court, Ninewa CAD issued instructions for all sub-districts CADs within Ninewa. Legal partners are encouraged to monitor the implementation of the decision in Ninewa and to report any successful or remaining challenges that you identify on the ground. UNAMI Human Rights Office is also following on the implementation of the decision together with the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights.

Access to Education

- Partners have reported instructions from General Directorate of Education from areas of origin announcing that the assignment of all the IDP teachers in Ninewa and KRI had been discontinued and all the teachers must resume their duties in their places of origin. According to Education actors, this is a usual procedure the government to encourage returns given the inappropriate distribution of teachers in some areas but it should not be applicable to people in camps. Education actors are following up on the matter. Partners report challenges in schools in camps.

2b. Strategic Update from C/S PWG

Anbar

- Anbar ICCG Durable Solutions Workshop: Following the September Anbar ICCG in Ramadi, ICCG members and participants from development, transition and political organisations gathered for a workshop in Baghdad on 16 October to discuss durable solutions in the governorate. Participants mapped current activities and gaps in response, with issues such as lack of access, lack of donor funding/attention and lack of staffing as major issues regarding the humanitarian response. In addition, problems in West Anbar for returnees were discussed, including lack of departure letters issued from AAF camp to assist IDPs pass the various ISF Operations Command and PMF checkpoints en route. PMF occupation was raised as another concern. Anbar ICCG is using the outcome of the workshop as a roadmap to determine where humanitarians may scale-up response, while acknowledging that conversation on the development/humanitarian nexus is necessary for higher-level discussion.

Salah al-Din

- Basateen Al Sheoukh camp in Al Shirqat district formally closed on 16 October. CCCM partner, CAOFISR, conducted a tent to tent intentions survey to determine where IDPs would go as a majority noted they would not return to their areas of origin. Concerns were raised as IDPs reported they would pay to rent homes in Al Shirqat city, but lack the resources to do so. Protection partners in Salah al-Din continue to provide monitoring for out of camp resource.
- The NPC continues to have concerns regarding the humanitarian character of Al Karama camp in Tikrit district due to continued limitation on freedom of movement and confiscation of civil documentation for IDPs forcibly relocated to the camp from Ninewa in August and September. IDPs resident in-camp before the arrival of Ninewa IDPs have freedom of movement in and out of camp, as well as access to their documents. While a sponsorship system has been established to IDPs to theoretically depart, only Government of Iraq employees and members of the ISF can act as sponsors. The Salah al-Din Protection Working Group continues to closely monitor the site, while the NPC, CCCM and Shelter/NFI clusters advocate with the ICCG and HCT for solutions.

Diyala

- The Diyala GRC has been postponed until 29 October.

2c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster

Kirkuk

- Dignity kits distributed for new relocated families from Ninewa to Kirkuk camps (Laylan1 & 2).

Ninewa

- Following consolidations of Jada'a, Airstrip and Salmaya camps, the GBV partners are in discussion on the locations/camps in terms of needs for their relocation.
- Second meeting between GBV, CP and caring for children and adolescents survivors of sexual violence initiative (CASI) coordinator was held in October to agree on the pilot areas and the way forward regarding the CASI coordination tools.

Diyala

- GBV service mapping and referral pathways of Diyala updated.
- MSF interventions in the health units of Saadiya and Jalawlaa Sub districts were handed over to Diyala DOH at the end of August 2019.

Erbil

- Qualitative and quantitative data collection on child marriage is finalized.

Sulaymaniyah

- UNFPA's Women Listening Centers in Garmyan (Qoratu, Tazade and Alwand1 camps) managed by PDO and PAO that were to close by the end of October 2019 are now planned to be handed over to the mentioned local organization to be running voluntary with minimum human resources and financial capacities.
- A new project is open in Arbat IDP camp and Ashti camp as well as Arbat town by DHRD funded by UNDP. The project promotes social cohesion and this component of the project on focusing on SGBV providing case management services, PSS, legal assistance and capacity building.

GBVIMS

- GBVIMS trainings conducted in Sulaymaniyah between 9th and 10th October for 25 participants and 13th to 15th October in Erbil for 17 participants.
- The participants were drawn from local and international organizations, government and UN agencies, mostly case workers, case managers, GBV data entry focal persons and GBV program staff from the GBVIMS data gathering organizations and potential organizations.
- The trainings are also planned in Dohuk between 4th and 6th November and Baghdad (dates TBD).
- The GBVIMS Task will also roll out capacity assessment of potential organizations in parallel with the GBVIMS trainings.

2d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster

- There will be two new temporary supporting coordinators supporting for next two months: **Federica Cova**, Erbil CP Project manager of TdH It will be taking up 3RP 2020 planning coordination role for coming 2 months. She is currently managing UNHCR funded CP /Education project and familiar with refugee response programs, and TdH It is able to offer 25% of her time for us to complete 3RP planning. Federica can be reached via f.cova@tdhitaly.org or +964 (0) 750 295 7661 **Aleta Morn**, Protection Coordinator of INTERSOS Iraq will be taking up coordination role for recent camp consolidation/ return assistance response for coming two months. INTERSOS has a strong presence in governorates of concern and can support operational coordination of partners. INTERSOS is able to offer 20-25% of her time in the coming 2 months. Aleta can be reached via protection.iraq@intersos.org, or +964 (0) 773 695 0620

Unaccompanied and Separated children

- Due to the rapid camp consolidation and return movements, we received few cases of family separation. CPSC re-activated UASC hotline which operates 24/7 in Arabic language: 07708035488, it's operated by TdH It. UASC focal points in each camp has been activated for connecting with actors.

Child Safeguarding Training

- Child Safeguarding training has been conducted in Erbil (23-25 Oct), Baghdad (30 Sep-20Oct), Basra (postponed), Erbil (15-17 Oct NCCI), Ninewa (22-24 Oct). Workshop for Child Safeguarding Network members will be held on 28/29 Oct, and 5-6 members across the country will remain as resource persons. Implementation guide has been drafted, based on the feedback received during those training, SAG members are currently reviewing the guide. The consultancy will conclude as of mid-Nov, and the training will be handed over to the network members.

CPSC Strategic Advisory Group

- Finalized draft HRP response strategy review (no major changes, more focus on community-based activities and government capacity building with emphasis on coaching).
- Indicators and target, and rough costing for HRP 2020. Child Protection PIN for 2020 is 1.65M people, Acute PIN is 774K people, the initial target agreed by CP SAG is 600k people with approx. 40M USD. Current funding level for HRP 2019 is 39.9M which is 77% funded (30M)

2e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster

- The MASC has initiated discussions with Protection, CCCM and the Returns Working Group to obtain locations of areas of arrivals of IDPs to provide risk education and to coordinate future activities.
- The MASC Coordinator has started to develop an online Mine Action Portfolio which will act as an online, country-specific resource tool for donors, policy-makers and advocates (including national and international mine action implementers) managed by UNMAS. The portfolio will contain (i) an overview of the contamination problem and subsequent national strategy and (ii) projects (objectives, activities and budget) aligned with the strategic response to explosive hazards developed at the national level. The portfolio's purpose is to set the scope of the problem and what is being done to address it, including levels of funding.
- **Accreditation:** DCA and DDG are having accreditation issues due to Department of NGO requirements.
- **Members:** Two NGOs joined the MASC (HAMMAP and Shareteah Humanitarian Organization) HAMMAP is a French NGO and registered in Kurdistan but not yet in Baghdad. Shareteah is a national NGO conducting RE registered in federal Iraq and Kurdistan. The Directorate for Mine Action (DMA) opened its Regional Mine Action Center – North in Mosul, to manage and coordinate the ERW clearance operations in Ninawa governorate.

2f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster

- In coordination with HLP SC, Dorcas Aid International organized a three day training on housing, land and property rights in Dohuk governorate. The training was organized mainly for non-hlp actors and aimed to raise the awareness of non-HLP actors to better understand HLP rights and to support the non-HLP actors to include protection of HLP rights in their programming. This training was a good opportunity for humanitarian partners in Dohuk to take advantage to understand HLP as Dohuk is one of the governorates where not many HLP activities were carried out previously.
- After the first reading of the amendments of the law on compensation by Council of Representatives of Iraqi Parliament, HLP SC together with TtDPK will provide additional inputs for the second reading of the law on compensation which is expected to be submitted in November.
- Due to security situation in Baghdad the meeting scheduled with Central Compensation Committee, Martyrs Foundation and officials from Ministry of Finance to discuss about compensation claims procedures and budget allocation was cancelled. It is expected that meeting will be convened in November.
- It has been reported by HLP partners that Court in Sinjar district has stopped receiving compensation claims in from end of August till end of September. HLP Partners has raised this issue with officials in this regard, and they informed us that services were resumed by October. However, as of yesterday the Court in Sinjar announced that beneficiaries will not be able to file compensation claims until further notice. According to officials in Sinjar, the reason for not receiving claims is due to backlog that has been created by previous cases and were not able to process all received cases so far, and in addition due to lack of resources and inability to absorb more claims. It is expected that the services will be resumed by end of October or begging of November. Partners are following up very closely as there are any cases pending to be submitted by partners operating in Sinjar. It is worth emphasizing that it is been noticed that there is high interests from beneficiaries to file claim for compensation for their damaged properties.

2g. Strategic Update from CwC Task Force

- Based on recently endorsed HCT Protection Strategy, the current CWC TF will be dismantled and a new CWC/AAP TF will be formed and placed under the ICCG (rather than only under the NPC). OCHA and UNHCR will co-lead the new TF.

2h. Update from NPC

- **Update on HNO/HRP governorate level workshop findings:** The NPC organised Governorate level workshops with partners to validate identified protection needs, as highlighted by the MCNA VII, and plan the HRP response for 2020. Consultations with partners revealed that PSS services, legal assistance and counselling, and community-based activities continue to be priority activities in 2020, and some adjustments are needed with respect to awareness raising activities finalized to provision of additional specialized protection services (rather than activities per se). Main findings will be shared with partners through the NPC mailing list.
- **Update on Costing Methodology HRP 2020:** The revised HPC modules require Cluster to quantify and monetize each activity. The NPC has consulted with selected partners specialized in key protection activities to receive feedback on the cost of each NPC activity. Partners' feedback will be considered when the finalized cost/activity is shared with OCHA and HCT members for endorsement.

- **Update on Movement Severity Scale:** CCCM, Shelter/NFI and Protection Cluster have worked on a document analyzing the movements occurred in Ninewa Governorate due to the ongoing camp consolidation and closure process; the three Clusters have analysed the severity of each movement and categorized them according to the scale (from voluntary, dignified, sustainable movements – as per the definition contained in the Principled Return Framework – to forced movement). The document was shared with ICCG and HCT members for their feedback and endorsement. The document will be shared with NPC members with the NPC MOM.

3. AOB

- c. The next NPC meeting will be on 14 November from 11am to 1pm.