



National Protection Cluster

Meeting Minutes, 14 January 2018

Locations: UNHCR Baghdad, UNHCR Erbil, DRC Office Baghdad
Chaired by: Mohammed Khan (Coordinator)

AGENDA

1. Review of Action Points from 19 December meeting
2. Strategic & Thematic Updates:
 - a. Strategic Update from KR-I and Ninewa 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
 - i. Update from RPA mechanism
3. AOB

1. Review of Action Points from 19 December meeting

- No Action Points.
- Minutes adopted without amendments.

2a. Strategic Update from KRI and Ninewa PWG

- **KRI:** Camp consolidation and closure process has been finalized for Khazer / Hasansham camps, with Chamacor and Khazer M2 closed in December last year. In Dohuk Governorate the camp consolidation is being finalized in a coordinated manner: Bardarash camp was closed, Nargizlia camp is almost closed, with a few families still remaining and counselled by protection actors. Other families from Nargizlia were moved to Garmawa camp. It will be important to ensure that the lessons learnt from the camp consolidation and closure exercises in Erbil and Dohuk are documented and taken into consideration in planning of this process in other governorates, particularly regarding protection partners' active participation in monitoring, counselling, communication with IDP community and engagement with IDP leaders in order to uphold principled approach. **Action Item:** KRI PWG Coordinator to compile lessons learnt, to be shared with NPC.
- **Ninewa:** Continued trend of new arrivals to the camps in Ninewa, at times arrivals exceeding departures. Many of these arrivals are motivated by economic reasons, however there are cases of arrivals caused by evictions by security forces or local community, most often in relation to the perceived affiliations with extremist groups. Protection Cluster working closely with CCCM Cluster to more systematically record the reasons for new arrivals and identify cases of arrivals due to protection reasons at the camp management level for further follow up by protection partners. Protection partners have been requested to signal to the PC any cases of evictions or risk of evictions by security forces, community or landowners for systematic documentation in the Eviction Matrix and higher-level advocacy.
- The intensity of search operations and hotspots of fighting has increased in the recent month, with GOI military forces targeting the remaining cells of extremist groups. There have also been a number of IED incidents affecting Mukhtar offices in Mosul city. These incidents and military

activities have not led to displacement, however, need to be closely monitor by the protection partners in Ninewa, as they often lead to increased number of arrests and/or intimidation campaigns against families perceived to be affiliated with extremists.

- Ninewa PWG organized a dedicated meeting of legal partners to discuss and better coordinate legal assistance related to detention. There are now 5 legal partners working on detention issues in Ninewa and beyond and the meeting was helpful in determining who is doing what, where and what kind of cases are being handled by each actor. Also, further potential areas of work (e.g. joint advocacy, referral pathways, information sharing protocols) as well as key challenges (issuance of “criminal record letters”) were highlighted and require further focus at a wider level than only NPWG. **Action item:** NPC requested to engage with legal partners working on detention to decide on the need for and scope of dedicated coordination mechanism for legal assistance related to detention.

2b. Strategic Update from C/S PWG

- **Tuz Khurmatu:** On 8 January, mortar shelling hit Turkmen neighborhoods, injuring 8 civilians. The level of property destruction cannot be determined. Most likely there was displacement but numbers are currently unavailable, due to limited partner presence. Out of 1,000 registered families in Kirkuk, 500 assisted have been assisted. Two main concerns highlighted in the Tuz report by UNHCR: 1) MoMD (is Kirkuk) not registering the displaced families from Tuz as IDPs and, 2) the displaced families are prevented from bringing their belongings (mainly furniture) out of Tuz.
- **Hawija Operation:** On 4 January, the Iraqi Army and PMF launched a military operation in several areas of Hawiga district, including Riyadh, Abassi and Rashad sub-districts, to search for extremist groups who remained active. Reportedly, security forces are continuing to relocate families to Al-Zab sub-district. The final destination camps for these families is yet to be determined. These families were not allowed to take any belongings with them, except official documents. An additional 242 families (987 individuals) from the same sub-districts have been relocated to Kirkuk camps between 4-11 January. Reportedly, around 60 individuals from these families were detained by the Iraqi Army upon their arrival to the operations center in Hawiga, contributing to separation of families. In one case the PMF is alleged to have bulldozed an IDP family’s house and set the family car on fire. Access of humanitarian partners to IDPs from Hawiga remains limited, aside from those displaced to Kirkuk camps.
- **Evictions Notifications in Kirkuk:** Partners have observed at least three cases of eviction notifications targeting Kurdish families in Kirkuk in the aftermath of the 16 October military takeover of the governorate by ISF and PMF from Peshmerga forces. (1) *Palkana Village:* On 29 December, partners reported that around 100 Arab families arrived to Palkana village and notified the Kurdish families to leave the village within 72 hours or face forced expulsion. The Arab families are from Al-Shemmar tribe. The residents of nearby villages - Tal Helala, Chemred, Gazwa Shan and Ges Uma - have received similar notifications. Historically, majority of the residents of these villages are Kurds who were displaced during the 1980s and 1990s under the Saddam regime’s Arabization policies. Kurdish families were able to reclaim their property with the support of Kurdish parties in 2003. The Arab families claim that they were evicted by Kurds in 2003 and did not receive the required 20 million IQD compensation. The Arabs consider themselves as original inhabitants of the area. (2) *Arafa:* On 21 December, protection partners visited Arafa neighborhood to follow up on the eviction notifications issued to some 90 Kurdish families. The Arafa police, Mukhtar and representative of the National Operations Command are reported to have been involved in the notification process. The families have been residing in properties that belong to the North Oil Company since 2003. Thus far, five families have displaced to Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, and 85 families still remain in their homes. Protection partners were told that notifying authorities did not use force. However, graffiti on the walls of the houses show the insignia of PMF. (3) *Muaaskar Khalid:* On 21 December, protection partners

visited Muaaskar Khalid to verify the reported cases of eviction of Kurdish families from the area. Initial reports suggested that PMF groups (Turkmen PMF, Badr Brigade, and Al-Daawa party troops) evicted 141 families from this area on and after 16 October. However, 66 of these families later returned. The remaining 80 families – residing in around 65 houses - cannot return as their houses were constructed without permits, or on encroached land taken without informing the government. Partners noticed green flags and signs on the walls of some unfinished buildings stating that the property has been returned to its rightful owners. On 31 December, UNHCR conducted a mission to Palkana village and met representative of both communities to assess the situation. On 30 December, a group of Kurdish MPs travelling from Baghdad visited Palkana to mediate a solution, however, both communities still remain in a standoff as the Federal Police presence has doubled in the village.

- **Salah al-Din:** Although there was a significant decrease in forced evictions/returns during December 2017 (i.e. 934 families affected in October, 1,897 in November and 265 in December) due to intensive advocacy efforts, IDPs in Salah al-Din continue to receive eviction notices. On 3 January, the Al-Alam Police received an order to evict IDPs from non-camp locations, and to return families to newly retaken areas or transfer them to Al-Alam camps. Currently, the Al-Alam Local Council has frozen these orders, but it is unclear if and when forced evictions/returns will be implemented. Also, on 3 January Tikrit SWAT forces announced in Shaqlawa complex that families from Shirqat and Talul Al-Bagh will be expected to leave the complex. At the same time, IDPs from Hawiga who began returning to their places of origin in Riyadh sub-district have faced numerous reprisal attacks by armed groups. In one such incident in early December, seven returnees from Salah Al Din were reportedly killed. These reprisal attacks have prompted re-displacement of almost 150 returnee families back to Al-Alam camps and nearby villages.
- **Anbar:** Between 13 December and 5 January, 688 families have been forcibly evicted/returned from Habbiniyah Tourist City (HTC), Al-Khalidiya and Kilo 18 camps to their places of origin across Anbar, including Garma, Fallujah, Shaqlawiyah, Jazerat Al-Khalidiya, Jazerat Al-Ramadi, Jazerat al-Heet, and most recently to Ana, Rehana and Al-Qai'm. Moreover, as of 7 January, 466 IDPs residing in HTC camps are at imminent risk of forced return as they have been screened by security actors, with their ID documents seized. A Rapid Protection Assessment (RPA) conducted on 4 January in Ameriyat Al-Fallujah (AAF) camps identified widespread re-displacement resulting from forced and premature returns to Al-Qai'm and Fallujah, and several cases of detention, harassment and reprisal attacks. Despite obtaining security cards, some forcibly returned families were prevented by security actors from entering Al-Qa'im and Fallujah due to perceived affiliations. Such families had to return back to AAF camps. During the first week of January, partners reported several reprisal attacks, especially in Ramadi and its vicinity, targeting houses of returnee families with perceived affiliations. On 2 January, a grenade placed on the roof of a returnee family with perceived affiliations by unknown perpetrators exploded in Ramadi city (Mala'ab neighborhood). The family felt threatened and returned to AAF camp. During the same period, approximately 30 returnee families fled Ramadi, Jazeerat Al-Ramadi and Saqlawiya to Kilo 18 camp out of fear for their safety, of which 17 families were attacked by unknown perpetrators and had to be evacuated by security forces. On 8 January, two houses and one shop were burned in Heet district as a revenge act against families with alleged ties to extremists. No injuries or casualties were reported.
- **Baghdad:** On 3 January, Baghdad Operations Command announced the immediate closure of all IDP camps in Baghdad by 14 Jan. After intensive advocacy efforts, evictions process has been suspended until the end of the school exams on 1 February. At risk of eviction are some 1,628 families/9,000 persons in 11 selected sites in Baghdad. Out of 11 sites, 3 camps will remain open: Al Salam/ Takiya, Al Ahel and Zayona.

2c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster

- Most of GBV actors are continuing their activities in both camp and non – camp areas. However, NRC ended their activities in refugee camps (in Erbil and in all Kirkuk IDP camps), therefore GBV SC is planning to hand over from NRC to Al-Messala in Erbil and to IRW in Kirkuk.
- An Expression of Interest was extended to the Erbil GBV WG to fill the Co–Chair role, which is currently vacant. Erbil GBV WG will be covering Ninewa as well.
- GBV SC is planning to update its service mapping and referral pathways until February for KRI and Ninewa, as well as C/S governorates.
- GBV WGs at the governorate level are developing their 2018 work plans, which will be consolidated by the national GBV SC.
- Under leadership of the Sulimaniyah GBV WG and UNFPA, an SOP roll-out workshop is planned to take place on 22 and 23 January
- GBV SC is planning to start the process of GBV strategy development, based on HRP 2018
- Real - Time Accountability Partnership (RTAP) launch is planned tentatively for 30 January 2018. This is an Action Framework, where humanitarian stakeholders in Iraq have identified the most critical and challenging areas for action to ensure that GBV response and prevention are prioritized, integrated and coordinated in humanitarian assistance.
- Cases of sexual exploitation and abuse by security actors and humanitarian workers in Salah al-Din and Anbar camps has been reported. GBV WGs in both governorates are closely coordinating with PSEA Network to address the issue, once identified. There is a need of further PSEA training for service providers and armed actors.
- There is a need to strategize for more engagement/involvement of government service providers in GBV service provision.

2d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster

- CPSC is hosting CPWG coordinators workshop & retreat 16-18 Jan for the capacity building of coordinators as well as annual Work Plan for coordination.
- 7 participants from Iraq successfully attended in Global Case Management coaching and supervision training in Amman, and are rolling out the training in Iraq.
- IMO's are planning to host orientation session for CP SC's ActivityInfo indicator guide for HRP 2018 during the last half of January, before the 5 February deadline for the January reporting (indicator itself had been presented to National CPSC members).

2e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster

- A significant amount of progress on the registration and accreditation issue of mine action operators was made between the end of 2017 and now. Specifically, there are 3 international NGOs that are close to registration, and the Mine Action SC is very optimistic that one will be granted registration imminently. (Update January 18: MAG has received registration to work in federal Iraq and is now going to work on accreditation from the Directorate for Mine Action in Iraq).
- Clearance in houses – can only be conducted by the GoI and Iraqi forces. No civilian organization is permitted to conduct clearance of houses in Iraq.
- Next MA SC meeting will be on January 18 – to discuss work plan for 2018, membership, next steps forward.

2f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster

- HLP violations mapping for the 3 quarters of 2017 are available and being disseminated. There are reports of evictions, confiscation of houses in Kirkuk, Diyala. Anbar, Salah al-Din, followed by Diyala, still have highest number of forced evictions. There are reports of evictions in Zummar.
- There are ongoing HLP assessments in: East Mosul – Sinjar phase 2 – West Mosul.

- Further HLP assessments are planned in: Kirkuk - Anbar – Rabia.

2g. Strategic Update from CwC Task Force

- Task Force is working on integrating CwC within UNHCR's CBP strategy, which will guide the approach of the Task Force.
- CwC Guidelines for Health have been drafted, while similar CwC Guidelines will be drafted and shared for other Sectors/Clusters.
- CwC Task Force will liaise with partners for printing materials.

2g. Update from NPC

- **Operational Returns Framework (ORF):** The ORF drafted by NPC was shared with ICCG, RWG and NPC SAG for inputs. However, HC's office took over the document, and condensed it into a 3-page 'Principled Returns' framework, that will be shared with the GoI. The status of the ORF remains uncertain. NPC will ask OCHA if it should be shelved altogether, or if ICCG, RWG and NPC SAG comments should be incorporated, and if it should be used as a reference document by the ICCG.
- **HNO/HRP Process:** Minor revisions to the HRP narrative were submitted to OCHA by 2 January; and Cluster Coordinators will meet with the HC individually to work on the final text of the HRP narrative in mid-January. Launch date of HNO is uncertain. HRP may be launched at Kuwait Conference in February.
- **PIM Training:** A 5-day PIM training targeting the MENA region will be held 30 April - 4 May (venue Jordan). With funding from ECHO all costs for meals, accommodation and international travel are covered. No DSA included. Seven participants can be from Iraq. It was decided that the 4 NPC IMOs will participate. With respect to the remaining 3 participants, priority will be given to partners who are specifically engaged in IM activities to support protection programming and advocacy. **Action Item:** NPC members invited to express their interest to NPC Coordinator. Sub-Cluster Coordinators are also invited to solicit interest from their partners, and convey these to NPC Coordinator.
- **ActivityInfo - Updating & Trainings:** NPC and Sub-Clusters updated the list of activities and indicators from 2018 HRP. NPC will roll out ActivityInfo intro trainings and SC-specific technical trainings with SC partners in January/February.
- **NPC Work Plan:** NPC will develop a Work Plan for 2018 based on the six core functions of Cluster Coordination, with Protection/GBV/CP Mainstreaming considered an additional core function. NPC will also look at previous performance evaluations (e.g. UNICEF evaluations of its Cluster, UNHCR evaluation of its role as NPC lead, SDC evaluation of GBV response in Iraq). This Work Plan will be used as the basis for periodic monitoring of progress against the Work Plan, at minimum by mid-2018. **Action Item:** Draft Work Plan to be shared with NPC SAG in February.
- **Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring:** Cluster Performance Monitoring was brought up at ICCG. OCHA agreed to defer the discussion till their senior management return to Iraq and provide guidance. The process of Cluster Performance Monitoring is usually system-wide, i.e. all Clusters participate. It is usually initiated by HCT, and administered by ICCG i.e. OCHA, with each Cluster rolling it out with their partners. NPC will wait for further guidance from OCHA on the way forward.
- NPC Co-Coordinator (Claudia Nicoletti, DRC) & C/S PWG Co-Coordinator (Carly Dunn, DRC) will arrive at end of January.

2i. Updates from RPA

- RPA in Al-Alam 1 & 3 camps, Tikrit district, Salah al-Din (26 December): RPA was triggered in Al Alam camps due to re-displacement of Hawiga IDPs following forced return movements

from Salah al-din back to Hawiga. The RPA identified forced and premature returns resulting in threats to physical safety and re-displacement of residents from Hawiga district. Forced recruitment to armed groups was also identified.

- RPA in Ameriyat Al-Fallujah IDP camps in Anbar (4 January): RPA was triggered due to reported premature and forced returns throughout Anbar camps. The RPA identified premature returns, denial of returns causing secondary displacement, family separation, and collective punishment.

3. AOB

- Next NPC meeting to be held on 15 February 2018.
- No further points raised under AOB