



**National Protection Cluster**

**Minutes of Meeting (06.05.21)**

**Chaired by:** Claudia Nicoletti and Yannick Creoff

**Locations:** Webex

**Agenda**

1. **Review of Action Points from 8 April – (5 mins)**
2. **Strategic & Thematic Updates:**
  - a. **Strategic Update from Ninewa / KR-I PWGs (10 mins)**
  - b. **Strategic Update from C/S PWGs (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. **Update from NPC – Updates on Service Advisor**
3. **AOB**
  - a. **IRC presentation Signposts**
  - b. **IOM presentation of the report ‘Persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in Iraq: Barriers, challenges and priorities’.**

**1. Review of Action Points from 08.04.21**

n/a	n/a
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Minutes adopted without amendments.

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

**Erbil**

- Protection partners conducted a visit to the three informal settlements ( Nishtiman, Sakhra and Dashty Bahasht) in Erbil and two other settlements (Azadi and Hamiya settlements) in Soran. The three informal settlements in Erbil are at risk of eviction.
- Nishtiman and Sakhra settlement is located in the center of Erbil. The building is a shopping mall with apartments on the third and fourth floor. Currently, the total number of families is 150 Christian families (72 IDP families and 78 refugee families). The IDP families are originally from Ninawa governate and it's districts, Hamdania, Bartila, Ba'ashiqa, Mosul center and Tilkef. The IDP families stated they cannot return to their area of origin due to the destruction of their houses, lack of job opportunities in the AoO and difficult financial situation.
- Dashty Bahasht settlement is located on located in Kasnazan sub-district of Erbil. The settlement is a compound of unfinished buildings and belongs to the investment directorate in Erbil. The total number of families in Dashty Bahasht is 65 IDP families. The families all originate from Kirkuk, and in particular from districts Duz and Daquq Tawuk. All the families occupy the houses without any rental agreement or any official documents. There is no imminent risk of eviction. However, the department of investment of Erbil has mentioned previously that they might take the houses back without providing a timeline.
- All families intend to stay in Erbil because they will not be able to return to Kirkuk due to security and political concerns in their place of origin. They also stated that PMF and Mukhtars have lists of the families who are not allowed to return and the majority of the IDPs in Dashty Bahasht are in that list.

**Dohuk**

**Spontaneous returns of IDPs from Dohuk to Ninewa:**

- Returns are ongoing. According to latest figures, since July 2020, 9,528 families (48,191 individuals) from Dohuk camps and urban areas have returned to Ninewa from Dohuk governorate.

**IDP return intention survey:**

- Protection partners conducted a return intention survey in all IDP camps and non-camp locations in Dohuk. The exercise focused on understanding the return intentions of IDPs in the next 3-6 months and highlights main barriers for return.
- The intention survey captures information drawn from field surveys and interviews with IDPs. The remote interviews took place in March with randomly selected households. In total, 773 HH/4,138 individuals were interviewed in both camp (380 ind.) and non-camp locations (393 ind.). Additionally, of these families, 150 were single FHH and two CHH. Some of the key findings include:
- The vast majority of the respondents (95%) expressed no intention to return to their areas of origin in the next six months. Less than 1% stated they intended to return within the given period and some 5% indicated they had not yet decided whether to return or to stay. When comparing camp and out of camp populations, camp populations represented a larger percentage of those not willing to return (96.5%) as opposed to out of camp residents (92%). This can be explained by greater access to humanitarian assistance and services in camps, as well as better access to information on the AoO/intended return.

- Some 57% of the respondents noted improved security situation along with socio-economic prospects, shelter/housing options, access to basic services and infrastructure as the key changes that need to occur in the area of origin for them to be able to return. Poor security situation (in relation to the presence of armed groups and affiliated fear) was thus identified as the main barrier for return (followed by absence or lack of socio-economic opportunities, damaged/limited infrastructure and HLP issues).
- Some 13% intend to travel to their AoO in the near future for various reasons, including for go and see visits (at least 42%), visiting family members (30%), and other purposes, including farming and seasonal labor opportunities (at least 3 %).

### **Sulaymaniyah**

- During April six exit surveys were conducted; two in Tazade, two in Qurato, one in Ashti, and one in Arbat, however only one HH left due to COVID-19 movement's restriction.

### **Ninewa**

- 85 HHs departed Jeddah 5 on 21 April as a part of IOM Voluntary Returns Programme in CAT 1.
- Some 300 HHs had originally registered to leave the camp under this category, however a lot of HHs decided not to leave - reasons for not leaving are related to; Ramadan, but also due to families not "passing" the security clearance by Mukhtars in AoOs – as families with perceived affiliation are not being welcomed back by their communities in AoOs
- Protection partners follow up with the HHs that have departed from the camp in AoOs.
- During a mission to Baaj on 27 April, the protection cluster and protection partners met with a family that had returned from Jeddah on 21 April. The family mentioned that the reason for returning was that everyone in the camp were saying that whoever stays in the camp belongs to extremist groups or is affiliated. Upon return to Baaj, although no problems with the community was reported, the family did report that the community was asking why they had stayed so long in the camp if they did not have any affiliation with extremist groups.
- On 28 April, protection partners reported four Iraqi security forces vehicles in Jeddah 5 camp carrying light and medium weapons and the reasons are unknown. Moreover, protection partners highlighted that women are feeling unsafe to go to the latrines at night due to insufficient lighting and harassment by men.

## **2b. Strategic Update from Central-South PWG**

### **Anbar:**

- AAF camp closure was postponed till further notice after some violent protest against the Al-Jazera and Al-Badiyah Operations Command during the relocation process.

Number of IDPs at risk of eviction is 522 HHs (2,731 ind):

- ❖ Anbar: 461 HHs (2,402 ind)
  - ✓ West Anbar: 62 HHs ( 349 ind) [ AAF Mayor and MoMD: around 50 HHs, who should remain in the AAF camps for the time being and in future, when the camps are closed, they should not return to their areas of origin.]
  - ✓ East Anbar: 399 HHs (2053 ind)
- ❖ Around 180 FHHs (majority are Saqlawiyah and Garma)
- ❖ Babil - Jur Al Sakhar: 44 HHs (253 ind)
- ❖ Baghdad: 8 HHs (30 ind)
- ❖ SAD: 9 (46 ind)

The current scenarios are IDPs originally from Babil - Jur Al Sakhar: 44 HHs may be relocated to HTC or Bzebiz informal sites.

- Two IDPs in AAF Camp were arrested by AAF Police Station and transferred to Baghdad for unknown reasons and without arresting warrant, both IDPs are originally from Zobaa area which is located in Baghdad belt.
- During protection interviews with two families originally from Al-Qaim who have arrived to Al-Tamim area in Ramadi, the families reported that lack of livelihood opportunities as well as PMF harassment are main reasons behind their displacement. Where the PMF elements are imposing amount of money to be paid for each truck/good movement through a CP in the area under the PMF control.

### **Diyala:**

- 15 IDP families voluntarily returned from different displacement locations to their areas of origin in Jalawla sub district and north of Muqdadiyah after obtaining security clearances.

### **Kirkuk:**

- Kirkuk Government Return Committee (GRC) chaired by the Governor Assistant for Technical Affairs has formally requested UNHCR to assist the returnees in 12 villages of Daquq, and Taza sub districts with available shelter items (doors, windows, kitchen roofs) from the decommission of Laylan 2 camp to improve the shelter conditions of the returnees. UNHCR is waiting for the lists of returnee families to start the process of verification and distribution.
- HLP: reports from community volunteers confirmed that around 130 families recently returned to their AoO in Qashqaya village in Dibis district, are experiencing harassment from neighboring villages due to allegations regards extremist groups affiliation. The Mukhtar and other community members reported that the neighboring villages submitted inaccurate information to the security forces controlling the area. Based on these information, Qashqaya village was

identified by the ISF as a high-risk village and it was subject for many raid operations which recently lead to arresting four young individuals and referring them to Dibis Court. Only two individuals (out of four) were released on bail after the legal support from UNHCR partner HAI.

Qashqaya Mukhtar stated that land dispute in the area is the main reason behind this intercommunal tension. According to the Mukhtar, many families have intention now to leave the village and return back to the previous areas of displacement in Kirkuk.

- Secondary displacement: Due to unstable security issues in the Tamour, Hajj Hussein, and Moussa-Koi villages in Daqouq district, most of the returnees have left their AoO and returned back to their areas of displacement. During the reporting period, three extremist attacks took place in Daqouq resulting in killing two ISF elements, according to KIs among the returnees, the ISF has plan to withdraw and leave their positions.

#### **Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC)**

- In C&S, IHEC has set up fixed and mobile teams for biometric voter registration.
- IHEC first priority is the registration of recent returnees at AoO.
- For the IDPs, the mobile registration modality is planned to target camps and informal sites of large IDP groups.  
While a group less than 6 IDP families and located in isolated locations are advised to return to their AoO for the biometric registration.

#### **Recent updates during the reporting period:**

- IHEC mobile teams started registering the IDPs in informal sites in Anbar (HTC, Low-cost housing site, and Bzbiz site) as well as Salah al Din (Balad Train Station, Yathrib sub district, and the unfinished school buildings in Samarra).
- IHEC has also begun the registration of out-of-camp IDPs in Diyala, in particular IDPs originally from other Governorates.

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

##### **GBVIMS Q1 2021 data available highlighting the below trends**

- 7% increase of GBV reporting in Q1 2021 compared to previous Q4 2020;
- Main GBV types reported: Psychological emotional abuse (41%) and denial of resources (24%) and physical assault (23%)
- 11% increase of SV reporting in Q1 2021 compared to previous Q4 2020.
- Gradual acceptance of legal assistance service by GBV survivors: increasing rate of survivors provided with legal (9% against 4% in Q1 2020), Security/police: (12% against 10% in Q1 2020 accepted referrals)
- main gaps in service provision include safe shelters (69% of survivors in need not assisted), livelihood (34% of survivors in need not assisted)
- Gradual acceptance of **legal assistance and security service** by GBV survivors but challenges remain cost of services, stigma, fear of retaliation
- **Referral** from non-GBV actors is **weak**, except for the health actors

##### **Key recommendations**

- Scale up multi-sectoral timely and quality services for women, girls, boys and men, in and out of camp settings, areas of return and the host communities.
- Continue the specialized services for women and girls and ensure availability of services for men and boys.
- Enhance information dissemination on the available services using innovative approaches.
- Scale up and advocate for quality livelihood and safe house/shelter services.
- Regular capacity building of the GBV service providers and duty bearers on the GBV guiding principles to enhance access to legal and safety and security services.
- Enhance referral mechanisms with other sectors through the multi sectoral referral pathways for timely and comprehensive service delivery, in line with GBV guiding principles.
- Regular updating, dissemination and use of the harmonized multi-sectoral referral pathways to include activities for adolescents and enhance coordination on referral for livelihood services.
- Scale up coordination with education stakeholders e.g. school counsellors for referrals of adolescents.
- Advocate for mandatory reporting of rape to be limited to children only.
- Scale up advocacy with the government entities running safe shelters to make them more accessible e.g. shorter court procedures.

2. Harmonized inter agency **GBV Referral Pathways - Iraq- 2021** integrating PSEA now developed for **Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, SAD, Sulaymaniyah**: GBV RP will also be developed for the remaining governorates in the coming weeks. All cluster members are encouraged to support wide dissemination and use of the GBV referral pathways to safely refer GBV survivors to specialized GBV services

3. **GBV in health**: the GBV SC is jointly working with the Health cluster to conduct a mapping of health response to GBV. This will be integrated in the harmonized GBV RP and shared will all stakeholders.

4. Draft Technical brief on **cyber related GBV** is finalized and will be shared with the GBV AoR

5. The draft report of the GBV capacity needs assessment is available and will be shared with partners

6. The GBV SC in collaboration with CARE is planning a webinar on GBV and Cash based intervention to support GBV partners to safely integrate Cash based intervention in GBV programming. The tentative date of the webinar is on 17 of May 2021

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

- **Activation of Ninewa CMTF:** Ninewa districts are in the 30 priority districts in HRP 2021 and almost of half of CPSC partners are operating in Ninewa. The presence CP risks require more direct technical support to partners providing case management. The CP SAG agreed on activating CMTF in Ninewa and the lead position is contributed by IRC. Per the TOR, this TF will facilitate the referral and transfer of cases between partners and with other specialized service providers. It will also support on working on the gaps and challenges that face partners with their CM intervention.
- **Sustainable Localization Plan for CPSC 2021-2023:** The CP AoR in partnership with SCS are continue with supporting in country CP AoR in Iraq to draft a sustainable plan (vision, objectives and activities) for national level CP coordination toward 2023. The workshops were conducted with SAG & CPWG coordinators and other relevant stakeholders. The outcome of these workshop will be shared with the lead agency for their consideration and implementation in the case of cluster transition or nationalization.
- **CMPIS+ V2 in Duhok:** The presence of many technical and admin error in the current system, Primero along with UNICEF and Duhok CMTF, will train the current CPIMS+ users on the v2-version2 of the system. The trainings will be in Arabic & Kurdish for the partners.
- **Challenges:**
  - **Capacity Building for CP Partners:** with the change in the area of operation between in-camp & return locations, more national staff and NNGOs, CP partners are reaching out for case management, PSS and parenting program trainings. CPSC is following up with the SAG members to allocate resources for a series of TOT F2F (if possible) or to conduct those trainings remotely. The available training packs are yet not have been adapted for the remote modality and this might take time before it gets ready to use.
  - **Other Service Providers (MH, Education, Health, Livelihood):** The inadequate or lack of service providers, continue to exacerbate the CP risks. Stakeholders including donors and funding agencies were reached out to consider these gaps and were requested to support/fund comprehensive CP intervention projects specially those which are targeting HC, IDPs & Returnees all together. Partners are also encouraged to initiate the same discussion with donors and CPSC is ready to support on that.

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

- **Residential area clearance in Sinjar commence mid-June**

Clearance operations of residential areas will start mid-June in Sinjar in Ninewa. The location has not been identified yet and the decision will only be made end of May after an on-site joint visit with the Directorate of mine action (DMA), ISF in Sinjar.

In addition to this new operation, clearance of houses in Rawa district in Anbar is currently ongoing.
- **Training on HLP to mine action actors by NRC**

In relation to the residential area clearance, and recognizing the importance for the mine action actors to understand the HLP framework in Iraq, the MASC encouraged mine action partners to receive a Training on HLP and currently with support from HLP sub-cluster. The MASC is planning to have a training delivered by NRC to community liaison officers (CLOs) soon. Such training is important to understand how the mine action intervention may have potential implications on housing/property value, the compensation scheme and the HLP laws and the means for verification of property ownership.
- **Coordination with ISF about the destruction of cleared explosive ordnance items**

Based on a request from the ISF, the MASC working with the clearance partners in Ninewa to coordinate the destruction of the explosive ordnance (EO) items in collaboration with the ISF in Ninewa in a more coordinated manner. The ISF is in charge of collecting cleared EO cleared by the mine action operators and destruct them. In this regard, DMA issued instructions to regulate the storage of collected EO for destruction to avoid any incidents of detonation of stored items. This includes: 1. An EO storing point to be designated to store recovered explosive materials and to be fortified with sand bags away from human congregation areas to be delivered to ISF teams at earliest convenience. 2. Provide heavy security measures around said points (24/7) to avoid access to these points by any other entity except for authorized teams. 3. Contact ISF teams operating in the area in order to collect EO items for disposal as soon as possible.
- **EORE broadcast on Education TV channel:** in addition to continued in person EORE activities conducted by MA actors in different parts of the country, the national authorities collaborated with the Ministry of Education to broadcast the awareness videos on the Education TV channel.

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

On April 2021, after 3 years of collaboration and efforts to support Yazidi's land rights UN-Habitat Iraq and the Ministry of Justice of Iraq, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support the registration of Yazidi's land rights. The MOU was signed with the support of the Prime Minister of Iraq, and under the patronage of Mr. Salar Abdul Sattar Muhammad, Minister of Justice.

The MOU aims to strengthen the cooperation and support the Ministry of Justice through joint efforts to secure and protect land tenure rights, and to facilitate the registration of ownership rights as one of the most critical durable solutions for Yazidis in Sinjar district. Additionally, the MOU strives to seek and explore potential solutions and legal

approaches with respect to ownership rights and documentation, and remedy the effects resulting from the destruction of documents in the city of Mosul.

Mr. Ahmed Luebi, Director General of the Department for Justice Affairs in the Ministry of Justice, stated that the MOU will ensure the sustainable return of the displaced people and the right of Yazidis to own land in Sinjar, which is considered one of the most important areas in Iraq. Further, he outlined that the MOU was drafted with the support of Prime Minister and the efforts of the Minister of Justice, Judge Salar Abdul Sattar Muhammed.

HLP actors will continue to support MOJ to finalize the registration of Yazidis land rights and additional support will be provided to Real Estate Registration Office in Mosul by building capacity on housing, land and property related issues.

## 2h. Updates from NPC

**Updates on Service Advisor:** Services Advisor is an online web platform for cluster coordinators and service providers. It provides up-to-date information about availability of humanitarian assistance/services in precise locations and it can also support the referrals between humanitarian actors. NPC launched Iraq Services Advisor in May 2019, more than 80 protection partners added their services on the platform with more than a 1000 service locations. Services Advisor allows users to view available services on an interactive map and in an online service directory. Users can filter by category (such as GBV, CP, GP, HLP and Mine Action services), location, service provider and eligibility/referral requirements. Service providers will need to register their implementing organization, list projects and activities, and update information whenever changes in services occur. Cluster/Sub-Cluster Coordinators can identify gaps in services in real-time.

A new SA platform is under finalization. NPC identified the need of having a more robust and flexible system that can serve the purpose of service mapping and able to cover both protection IDPs and services under Refugee Coordination Model. The development of a newer version of the Services Advisor will be finalized by mid-May. Training dates will be announced following the NPC meeting for partners to register.

## 3. AOB

a. **IRC presentation Signposts:** IRC presented the project Signposts that provides accurate, accessible and timely information for people in times of crisis. For more information, please see ppt and reach out to Shan Baker [Shan.Baker@rescue.org](mailto:Shan.Baker@rescue.org)

b. **IOM presentation of the report ‘Persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in Iraq: Barriers, challenges and priorities’.** All details about presentation and related documents can be found here below.

- The OPD consultation report is available [here](#) in English, Arabic and Kurdish.
- The OPD directory is available in [here](#) in English and Arabic. (The OPD directory will be periodically updated by IOM, therefore, we highly encourage protection cluster members to share any feedback or updates with us).
- A video with key messages from the report is available here in [English](#), [Arabic](#) and [Kurdish](#)
- A video with key challenges faced by persons with disabilities in Iraq is available here in [English](#), [Arabic](#) and [Kurdish](#)
- A video on frequently asked questions about disability answered by person with disabilities is here in [English](#), [Arabic](#) and [Kurdish](#)

IOM’s disability inclusion team would be happy to receive any further questions related to the OPD consultation report or the directory, Please contact Rafid Shkwana [on rshkwana@iom.int](mailto:rshkwana@iom.int).

- Next NPC meeting likely on 10 June – to be confirmed.