

1. **Review of Action Points from 15 July 2021 – (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)**
 - h. **Update from NPC – Services Advisor platform; Advocacy; 2021 HRP Light Review**
3. **AOB**

1. **Review of Action Points from 15 July 2021**
Minutes adopted without amendments.

2a. Strategic Update from KRI & Ninewa PWG

Dohuk

- **Spontaneous returns of IDPs from Dohuk to Ninewa:** Spontaneous returns of IDPs from Duhok to Ninewa continued in July. IDP return data shared by the Directorate of Migration and Crisis Response (DMCR) revealed that 54 families (322 individuals) returned from Duhok camps and urban areas to Ninewa during July-August, representing a 43% decrease compared to the last month. This brings the total number of IDPs who have returned to Ninewa since July 2020 to 9,801 families (49,763 individuals).
- **IDP Admissions Committee:** The Admissions Committee established by DMCR granted 39 families (187 individuals) admission to the camps in July. To date, 246 applications were submitted and 178 interviews were conducted, of which 175 applications (877 individuals) have been reviewed and granted admission. The main reasons for reversed return are fragile security situation in the area of origin, presence of multiple armed groups, lack of basic services, including specialized medical assistance, poor infrastructure, and lack of livelihoods.

Erbil

- **Departure from the EMCs:** On 4 August, a total of 74 households, including 349 individuals have left the EMCs: 45 families (223 individuals) from Khazir M1, 12 families (51 individuals) from Hasansham U2 and 17 families (75 individuals) from in Hasansham U3. The number of departures accumulated over the past three weeks as MoMD awaited an accumulation of cases to conduct its visit. The protection partners conducted exit surveys for around 49 households. Reportedly, difficulty to access food in displacement, lack of electricity, lack of livelihood opportunities are the main push factors. The large majority returned to their AoOs while others were relocated to Erbil or in various other areas within Ninewa. MoMD provided transportation but families residing outside of Mosul had to pay an average 45,000 IQD to reach the intended destination.
- **Situation within the EMCs:** The irregular distribution of fuel and the lack of assistance for new arrivals continues to cause emerging needs, namely a lack of electricity in the midst of increasing temperatures. The worsening situation in the camp has resulted in increased reporting of domestic abuse/IPV. MoMD provided fuel for the camp generators sufficient for 15 days. There is still a lack of food assistance for new arrivals. Erbil PWG continue to work on these issues with the CCCM and Food security cluster.
- **Risk of eviction in Debaga:** Through protection monitoring, several cases of possible evictions were identified in urban areas in Debaga. Asayish has ordered several IDPs to leave Erbil due to security concerns. Erbil PWG will continue to monitor the situation and advocating that these families can at least move to the EMCs, so they are not forced to return. At least 6 households (23 individuals) received notifications and were requested to evacuate their accommodations and leave the camp KR-I territory within a short time.

Sulaymaniyah

- **Return trends:** IDPs voluntary return from Suly to areas of origin was reportedly low. Only 3 departures were reported in July (2 from Ashti camp and 1 from Arbat camp). 2 HHs voluntarily returned to SAD and 1 HH moved to urban areas in Diyala. Protection partners conducted camp exit surveys.
- **Fire incidents:** On July 22, 2021, four tents were burned in Ashti camp due to an electric short circuit. The incident left one deceased child. On July 28, 2021, two tents were burned in Qurato camp due to an electric short circuit, without victims. The affected families were provided with some basic emergency assistance from by DCMR and humanitarian partners.

Ninewa:

- **Forced Relocation from SAD to Jeddah 5:** An additional 54 families were relocated to Jeddah 5 from Al-Shirqat district, Al-Eitha village by the Iraqi authorities in August. The total number of families who were forcibly relocated has now reached 87 HH / 340 individuals. The families were not allowed to take household belongings except their legal documents and some clothes. All new arrivals were registered by MOMD and tents were assigned. They were provided food basket, blanket, and mattresses. Dignity kits were distributed to 94 women and girls by protection partners. Protection partner conducted HH-level assessment. The large number of families are lacking valid legal documentation, including 31 individuals with expired Civil IDs. Seven separated children who are accompanied by relatives were identified. Ninewa Operations Commander and the National Security Adviser visited Jeddah 5 camp. A high-level committee was also formed by the prime minister to conduct a visit to Jeddah 5 camp, including Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, National Security, JOC and MoMD. They met with the concerned families to understand the reason behind their forced relocation to Jada'a 5. The families reported having received no information about the reasons for their eviction for Al-Eitha and subsequent forced relocation to Jeddah 5. Advocacy is taking a place to seek a solution through the humanitarian leadership to stop any further forced relocation of people with perceived affiliation who are currently residing in Al-Eitha, and also to enable the return of the families who were forcibly relocated to Jeddah 5.
- **Access to Jeddah 5:** MODM has put in place a new ad-hoc restrictions on vehicles entering Jeddah 5 camp, allowing only NGO vehicles to enter. This especially affects the elderly, PWDs or people with medical conditions who have to walk to access other vehicles outside of the camp. MODM issued a decision that no organization is allowed to enter J5 as of 1st Aug unless they have the approval letter from MODM including the staff list of the organization as well as weekly updates on the activities which they are implementing in the camp. MODM did not make reference to laptop/mobile phones, only to staff list. CCCM actors are following up with MODM with regards to the new restrictions and will keep the NPWG/protection partners updated.
- **Harassment at WASH points:** protection partners continued to monitor harassment and incidents around these tents through patrols and tent visits respectively. No specific issues were identified through patrolling. Protection partners conducted FGD with men and boys to know what boys /people wish to do as alternative activities and will share the findings with the NPWG. CP/GBV partners disseminated brochures on sexual harassment. GBV Partners continues GBV awareness raising.
- **Risk of eviction at the abandoned police building near the Al-Ikha'a Titanic church:** 3 HHs who used to stay at an abandoned police building near the Al-Ikha'a Titanic Church were evicted in the middle of the night on 28/07 to another nearby building owned by the Al Baath party. A police officer came to meet with the site residents and requested them to leave the site as soon as possible. He informed them that the building will be renovated by the Ministry of Interior and that the construction work with start on 15 August 2021. No alternative solutions were offered. Protection actors and CCCM are following up with these families and provided them with MPCA and cash for rent. OCHA will meet the Mayor of Mosul on 12 August to understand the intentions of the government with regards to the upcoming evictions and what alternative solutions can be provided to avoid worsening existing humanitarian needs. The NPWG has raised the issue of risk of eviction through CPI notes on 12 August and will continue to coordinate with CCCM and OCHA to properly address the issue and to find sustainable solutions for families residing in informal sites.

2b. Strategic Update from Central-South PWG

Anbar:

- The consolidation of the AAF camp, initially scheduled for August 4, was rescheduled for 26 August. The movement restrictions introduced earlier have been relaxed. Some 175 HH have been granted security clearance and are set to leave by mid-August subject to the pending approval from relevant government authorities. The profiles of the concerned 175 HH have been shared with IRC for coordination in the potential return areas (Ramadi district center, Saqlawiyah sub-district, AAF, Qaim, Garma and Haditha districts). For the families from Jurf al-Sakhar or who may have with security issues, tribal reconciliation efforts will be needed. As per the Anbar Operations Command, no closure of the camp is planned at this stage. Nevertheless, the potential for reclassification persists.
- Heightened COVID-19 prevention measures were introduced in Anbar as of last week. The governor of Anbar is requesting a full lock down due to worsening epidemiological situation related to the spread of COVID-19.
- The security situation in Heet remains volatile with a full curfew introduced as of August 11, 2021.

Baghdad:

- Legal assistance partners continue to coordinate with the MOI to facilitate the issuance of Unified Cards for IDPs who are originally from other Governorates and are currently residing in Baghdad. The MOI is experiencing technical issues and are working on resuming previously established plans.

Diyala:

- Attacks by extremist groups are continuing, which risk triggering secondary displacement. Security breaches by extremist groups were reported in Khanaqin district and Al-Abbara sub-district of Baqubah district.
- In preparation for the upcoming parliamentary elections, IHEC continues the biometric updating and registration of the IDPs and returnees in Diyala, including those displaced from other governorates.

Kerbala:

- IOM DTM has revised the number of IDPs in Kerbala. As per the recent verification exercise the current number of IDPs stands at 2,226, which is twice as less than the previously reported figure.
- The security situation in Kerbala remains a challenge with regular attacks by armed groups. Thus, on 10 August, unidentified gunmen reportedly assassinated the Mayor of Karbala Governorate while she was on an inspection campaign against violations in public streets. Security forces have not announced an arrest and no party has claimed responsibility for the killing.

SAD:

- The involuntary movement of IDP families from Al-Eitha village north of Shirqat to Jedah 5 camp has continued during the week (see updates under Ninewa). However, some 15 HH returned from Jeddah 5 to Al-Eitha on August 12, with a potential for further movements in the coming weeks.
- On 5 August, the Ministry of Electricity reportedly announced that 13 transmission towers were targeted in 48 hours in Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, and Ninewa Governorates. Authorities reportedly blame ISIL for the attacks. Other security incidents were reported during the period leading to the displacement of some 28 HH from Yathrib to Al Duluiyah.

2c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster

- Two GBVIMS trainings are planned for 23rd - 25th August (online) and 29th - 31st August (in person) in Baghdad. The trainings target DGOs and potential DGOs endorsed for inclusion in the Information Sharing Protocol in June.
- The GBVIMS TF members endorsed the inclusion of 4 new DGOs in June and one more has been reassessed, thus bringing the total to 5 new DGOs. Following the training, technical support will be provided on the GBVMS tools followed by the signature of the Protocol. There are currently 20 DGOs.
- New Information Sharing Protocol and MARA Addendum for 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022 are in place. 20 DGOs and 3 UN agencies signed the Protocol that regulates GBV data sharing. The GBVIMS work plan will be revised accordingly for 2021-2022 in light of the new ISP.
- The GBVIMS TF members endorsed the inclusion of the Child Protection Sub Cluster as pre-approved actor in the ISP, in order to enhance collaboration and reporting of GBV incidents affecting children.

- GBVIMS report for mid-2021 will be disseminated shortly. The report highlights key trends and emerging issues at the mid-year point, compared to previous periods.
- The Global Team is planning to pilot GBVIMS+ for the government in two countries. The Global Team will select the countries for the pilot rollout. Iraq expressed interest to rollout the GBVIMS+ for the government.
- Ongoing discussions between UNICEF and GBV SC on the joint GBV case management capacity building initiative.

2d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster

- **Challenges:** Recently some of the INGO partners started to close down their services and their CFS in 5 camps in Duhok and 4 non-camp locations in Baghdad, Anbar and east Mosul. Funding is the main reason behind the closure of services. This will also affect NNGOs as these INGOs used to have partnerships for implementation. CPSC is currently reaching out and following up with donors and other partners to fill these gaps, especially the review of the HRP 2021 shows very small achievements compared to targets (the highest is awareness raising and case management by 32% and 22% and the least is assistance to receive civil documentation %1).
- **Community Engagement in Case Management:** Two organizations have been selected to pilot the Community Engagement in Case Management Initiative: STEP in Sulaimaniya and SORD in Duhok and Ninewa. CMWG has circulated a vacancy announcement to support the implementation of this initiative with a consultancy from Plan Organization. Candidates with case management experience and technical knowledge are encouraged to apply by 20th Aug. Please contact CPSC for any information.

2e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster

- **Coordination of victim assistance with the national authorities:** Following the meeting with the Head of department Victim Assistance (VA) of the Directorate of Mine action (DMA) last month, she joined the last MASC meeting and called for more collaboration from humanitarian mine action actors with the VA department and briefed on the requirements to add VA activity to the accredited mine action organization. Registering any VA activity (medical care, physiological care, socio-economic assistance, data collection etc.) is required to report any work to the DMA.
- **Request of local authorities to increase mine action support:** The MASC receives requests for clearance from several parties including humanitarian bodies or local authorities. The MASC discusses the request with relevant partners and national authorities which also addressed by governorates offices asking for clearance of explosive ordnance. One of the requests was from Kirkuk Governorate Return Committee Secretary who is the focal point with international organizations. The problem of explosive ordnance contamination continues to be one of the obstacles to the return of IDPs and stabilization efforts and affect. The MASC is following up on this request to advocate on enhancing coordination with the DMA and relevant humanitarian partners.
- **Challenges of mine action operators:** MASC members reported some of the challenges faced during the implementation of operations in the field including high temperature, national holidays and COVIDO cases which lead to reduce working days/hours. In addition, the recent security incident in Makhmour was reported as a challenge for mine action teams working in the area. The situation will be assessed if continued then a decision to move from the site may be made.

2f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster

- **Eviction and HLP concerns in Mosul:** HLP partners reported that some evictions have been carried out in the city of Mosul, including in the Nabi Younis and Al-Rahmaniya areas, by the local authorities under the direct order from the Mayor of Mosul. The justification given by the authorities for these evictions was the reorganization of the city, i.e. slums upgrade, regularization of informal settlements, demolition of old buildings and illegal occupation of public buildings owned by the governorate. The governorate was not able to provide alternative shelter/housing for the evicted families.

HLP partners have visited the investigative court in Mosul to follow up on the areas that are at risk of eviction. The current demolitions carried out by the local government in Mosul are implemented in accordance with the law for the purpose of returning the lands seized by citizens to the state, and the Court did not receive any complaint to challenge the authorities' decision. According to the legislation and decisions in place, the informal housing on state

lands occurred after the official warning and notice of eviction was issued to informal settlers and therefore they are not entitled to claim any material compensation for the damages they suffered, because the compensation law No. 57 issued in 2015 does not cover this category. The concerned families do not have any documents related to the ownership of the land on which they built their houses. As they did not comply with the order from local authorities, the latter with the help of the security forces demolished their houses.

HLP partners have also contacted the Department of Municipality and Urban Planning in Mosul, which highlighted 3 types of issues related to informal settlements/housing. First, informal settlements that are within the boundaries of the municipality and the boundaries of urban planning need to be regularized. Second, informal settlements that are outside the municipal boundaries and within the new urban expansion designs which must be reviewed carefully and be integrated into urban planning and regularization. Third, informal settlements in which many of the residents lack ownership of the residential lands.

- **Update on the Ninewa Compensation Committee**

During August, HLP partners have been working closely with the Ninewa Compensation Committee to monitor the work of the committee on compensation cases. According to the Appeal Court, so far the compensation committee has approved more than 3,800 cases and all of them have been sent to Baghdad for processing but have not yet been approved by the Central Compensation Committee, while 9000 other compensation claims are still in process or pending to be processed within the Nineveh Compensation Committee. The reasons for the 3,800 claims not yet being approved by the Central Compensation Committee are unknown reason, but most probably it is because claims exceed the amount of 30 million IQD.

Based on a letter issued by the Ministry of Finance, it has been reported that IQD 28 Billion has been allocated to the Ninewa governorate to compensate successful claimants. Budget allocation for Ninewa is less than 10 percent of the total budget for compensation which is IQD 295 billion for the year 2021. Additionally, the allocated budget for 2021 has been already exhausted. Successful claimants who submitted their compensation claims in 2018 have started to receive their money. So far 741 beneficiaries have been compensated with the amount of more than 30,000,000 IQD per case which is approximate of 27 billion IQD, while 50 claims have been rejected by the Central Compensation Committee. There are concerns from beneficiaries and also unconfirmed reports that most of the claimants who did received compensation are people with connection with or affiliation to security actors.

2h. Updates from NPC

Services Advisor

The new version of the NPC service mapping tool “Services Advisor Platform V2” was launched 3 August 2021 and is currently in use. The NPC has conducted 5 training sessions on the new platform with 350 participants from 70 protection organizations operating in Iraq. Partners are expected to add their service locations onto the system (including services provided, exact locations, focal points for each service) by 18 August 2021. Partners who did not attend the training can reach out to Ghassan Shehadeh (shehadeg@unhcr.org) to create their organization’s user accounts and receive technical support. All guidance documents and resources, in the recording of the training sessions and a step by step guide are available on the shared drive below:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OGvS7eji2WV_ih6WAmA5ishFuZNS5_t1?usp=sharing

Advocacy

Based on contextual developments from the previous weeks (see updates from PWGs above), the NPC highlighted two key issues in the Critical Protection Issues (CPI) note submitted to the HCT on 10th August, for further engagement and advocacy by the humanitarian leadership:

- Continuous risk of evictions from collective centres in Ninewa governorate: Protection and CCCM partners have reported at least four cases of eviction notices served to IDPs residing in informal sites/collective centres in East Mosul city and Zummar sub-district, in Telafar district.
- Consolidation of camps and restriction of freedom of movement in Ameriyat Al Fallujah IDP camp in Anbar governorate: AAF camp has been used to restrict the freedom of movement of individuals residing outside of camp. Five of these individuals include Syrian refugees involved in two incidents related to expiration of residency permits and one IDP HH (8 individuals) were ordered to relocate to AAF due to perceived affiliation with extremists, following the arrest of the head of HH. On 1 August, Anbar Operations Command called a meeting with camp management, the Mayor of AAF and CCCM staff to report their decision for an immediate internal consolidation of the remaining camps within AAF by 4 August, citing security concerns linked to the irregular departures. The latest date mentioned by the authorities for camp consolidation is now 26 August.

HRP 2021 review

OCHA and the ICCG are undertaking a mid-year response gap analysis, covering the period from January to July 2021. The goal of the exercise is to identify districts and activities with critical gaps and qualify the reasons for the potential gaps that are being observed. The findings from this analysis will not only be used to inform programming for the remainder of 2021, but they will also be used to inform the HCT strategic response planning process, tentatively scheduled for the first week of October. Below is the timeline for the exercise:

- 17 August – OCHA shares an intersectoral response analysis and the template for cluster specific analysis
- 24 August – Clusters share explanations for gaps / over-reach with OCHA
- 25 August – OCHA and clusters hold bi-lateral discussions on gaps analysis
- 2 September – Initial findings of Light Review presented at ICCG
- 9 September – First draft of HRP Light Review circulated for feedback

3. AOB

N/A