



National Protection Cluster

Minutes of Meeting (10.11.21)

Chaired by: Claudia Nicoletti

Locations: Teams

Agenda

1. Review of Action Points from the meeting on 14 October
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. Updates from NPC – Update HNO/HRP process; Key findings of the NPC Legal Analysis report, Update on upcoming 2021 IHF Reserve Allocation

3. AOB

1. Review of Action Points from 14.10.21

n/a	n/a
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Minutes adopted without amendments.

2a. Strategic Update from KRI & Ninewa PWG

Dohuk

Spontaneous returns of IDPs from Dohuk to Ninewa

Spontaneous returns from Dohuk to Ninewa continued in October. IDP return data shared by the DMCR revealed that between July 2020 and October 2021, 50,506 individuals (10,046 families) returned from Dohuk governorate (33,007 from camps and 17,499 from urban areas) to Ninewa.

IDP Admissions Committee

In October, the Admissions Committee established by DMCR granted 26 families (153 individuals) admission to Dohuk governorate. To date, 335 applications were submitted, and 261 interviews were conducted, of which 247 applications (1,233 individuals) have been reviewed and granted admission to both camps and urban locations. Main reasons for reverse return in October included the reported fragile security situation in the areas of origin, lack of access to basic services, livelihoods and job opportunities.

Sulaymaniyah

Exit survey

During October 2021, the protection partners conducted seven exit surveys for 35 IDPs who left Ashty and Tazade camps. All the IDPs left voluntarily, and they returned to SAD, Baghdad, Diyala and Halabja.

Non-returns survey that was previously reported on has yet not been distributed and protection partners are following up with MoDM.

Erbil

Released detainees

On 3 November 2021, four young men were released from Erbil prison (after having served five years of prison due to terrorism charges/links with extremist groups) and escorted to the PSF checkpoint by Asayish as they were not allowed to remain in KRI. After advocacy, they were allowed to stay in Debaga camp for one night and were then brought to East Mosul camps the next day. The young men do not want to return to their area of origin as they fear being detained by the security forces at the checkpoints in Federal Iraq. The challenges for the released detainees remain.

Evictions

The Protection monitoring partner identified about 15 IDP families evicted from urban areas in Erbil. It concerns IDP families – mostly residing in Mamzawa, Erbil – who received an eviction notice by Asayish as they were family members of perceived affiliated persons. Five of the families moved to the East Mosul camps, while the other families relocated to Ninewa. Further follow-up is ongoing to understand the reasons for evictions and the return area of the impacted families. However, it was noted that at least one family approached Asayish to obtain protection after having received threats. However, this triggered a security check by Asayish and subsequently their eviction.

To confirm what was mentioned in the last meeting, new arrivals have been included in Food assistance by MoDM and WFP. It seems that MoDM has not distributed food packages for several weeks or has distributed expired food packages. OCHA is following up, and MoDM has confirmed that they will resume distribution.

Ninewa

Jeddah 5

Ninewa Operations Commander visited J5 on Sunday 24th October: Jeddah 5 camp will close soon in the next months and that the humanitarian community should start the preparation and he mentioned that many families are coming to the camp only for benefiting from assistance.

The news also spread to the families in Jeddah 5, now they are worried to be forced to leave. On Tuesday 26th MoDM Ninewa branch informed that there is no plan for camp closure soon. On Wednesday 27th the MoDM Minister informed that the camp would close although no timeline available yet. MoDM is also distributing intention surveys to camp residents to update the minister for the barriers to return. On 1 November, MoDM assessed all families from Al-Eitha to facilitate their return. On 3 November, a meeting was held between the Commander of Ninewa Operations, the Ninewa governor, the tribal leaders, and mayors of south Mosul villages in Al-Qayarah regarding the return of families with perceived affiliation with extremist groups from the camp to their areas of origin. Reportedly, the return of these families was rejected by the tribal leaders.

2b. Thematic Update from the C/S PWGs

Anbar: AAF

[At the time of writing] AAF closure/consolidation is pending announcement/implementation. Visit of the MoMD Minister and Anbar governor to AAF is postponed with no confirmed date (with subsequent announcement expected). Meantime, 6 HH (37 individuals) returned this week (on 8 November) to Al-Husay/Ameriyat al-Falluja. Of previously 27 HH registered to return with MoMD, 14 HH did not get the security clearance. The MoMD focal point in the camp confirmed that he received instructions from the senior management to not push or force families to register or return, affirming that the families will have the right to stay or return. No confirmation was given with regards to assistance and/or support available/to be provided for the families who registered to return with MoMD. Majority of the NGOs might not be able to sustain their regular activities/services once the camp is closed (especially food, health and wash services). The governor advisor for IDP issues Mazin Al-Reshawi, however, confirmed that the closure of the camps is to materialize.

Note: On November 10, 2021, the Anbar authorities announced the official closure of the Ameriyat al-Falluja camps. As per the announcement made:

- The camp will remain open as an informal IDP site.
- The AOC received requests to provide security clearance and support to solve security issues in the AoO for 300 households (excluding those from Babil or Al-Ewasat). Those with security clearance will be given three options: 1) return to AoO; 2) remain in the camp; 3) move to a third location at own cost.
- All households, independent of whether they stay or return, will receive a one-time cash grant from the Sunni Endowment, to be distributed by MoMD next week.
- Strict movement restriction for the duration of one week were imposed – according to authorities to prevent external parties to register for cash grants or disturb distributions, and to allow for interviews with all households for security clearances. After OCHA advocacy with the Anbar authorities and Operations Command, the restrictions were first rescinded in the evening of 10 November, and then reinstated upon orders from federal level on 11 November. Due to the protests in the following days, the freedom of movement was restored (as of evening November 12th).

Diyala:

The recent conflict induced displacement is ongoing. Thus, on 26 October, a civilian facility in Al-Rashad village in Muqdadiya district, Diyala governorate, was targeted by an attack attributed to extremist groups, reportedly resulting in some 14 people killed and 26 others injured. On October 27, the residents of Al-Rashad village reportedly killed eight people in neighboring hamlet of Nahr al-Imam in retaliation for the deadly attack of the day before. Fear of revenge attacks has sparked panic among nearby Sunni villagers. As a result, at the time of writing it was known of some 327 households (HHs), who fled the area and are now displaced across Diyala governorate - mainly in Baquba district. The families are currently being sheltered either in mosques (Al Aqsa and Sohaib Al-Roumi) in the town of Sharaban and/or hosted by community members in nearby villages. Al-Rashad village is predominantly populated by Shia Muslims and is known to have many members of security forces among its residents. Nahr al-Imam is predominantly populated by Sunni Muslims. The inhabitants of both villages are mostly members of the Bani Tamim tribe, from which the governor of Diyala hails. The villages witnessed significant clashes during the sectarian events in 2005-2008. Sharaban town is one of the disputed territories between Erbil and Baghdad in Diyala governorate. During the peak of sectarian clashes back in 2006-2007, the Sunni and Shiite villages in Sharaban were at the center of sectarian conflict. The incident was swiftly condemned by key political leaders in Iraq. A security delegation of the Joint Operations Command visited the sites and the displaced population with tight security measures introduced (curfew from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am). There is a wide security operation implemented in Al-Muqdadiyah district by ISF in response to the recent security incident. A curfew is imposed in Al-Muqdadiya district as of October 28th from 6 pm till 6 am for security related reasons and to prevent any incidents. Some 332 HH continue to be displaced from Al-Muqdadiyah (mainly Baqubah (270), and in Hamrin, Al-Sadiyha Sub-district (31). See for the detailed breakdown compiled by OCHA below:

~294-440 HH	Areas of Origin	Areas of Displacement	~350HH
137-220 HH	Nahr al-Iman	Gaton area / Ba'quba	290 HH
80-97 HH	Al-Methaq 1&2 (former al-Amiriyat)	Bani Weiss / Hamreen area	40 HH
19-43 HH	Al-Rashad	Jalawla / Khanaqin	8 HH
8-10 HH	Benigani / Babilan	Muqdadiya and villages in the north	10 -15 HH

4-8 HH	Shok al Rim (at least 4 HH returned)	Doora / Baghdad	6 HH
46 HH	Houses along the main road.	Mandali	1 HH

Protection actors are continuing to monitor the situation with subsequent assessments (at the community level mainly; with HH level assessments to be undertaken in the coming weeks). The key protection concern(s) identified include: (1) Safety/security considerations; (2) Risk of secondary/displacement and shelter needs; (3) Limited access to basic services and needed assistance (food, CRI, etc.); (4) Lack of civil documentation and limited access to the area of origin (with at least 160 HHs identified in need of documentation); (5) Freedom of movement restrictions. Some 160 HH are found to be missing documentation. While access to CAD remains limited because of the access issues, advocacy is being undertaken both at the local and national level (also through NPC at the HCT level). In this regard the CPI note was drafted and shared with the HCT. Protection response: LCN will support HH with missing documentation. DRC plans response in line with assessment results, which included needs related to MHPSS, community tensions, exploitation/discrimination, needs of vulnerable groups to services. Gaps, however, remain in Baquba:

- ✓ general protection services
- ✓ access to education (including the transfer of school registration docs of the affected children)
- ✓ health services, including MHPSS (MHPSS services one of the priorities mentioned by newly displaced with no health actor active in the affected area)

SAD:

On 3 Nov, the Sunni Endowment headquarters in Baghdad held a reconciliation meeting between the two tribes of Atataba and Qarghool (populated in Salah al-Din). The peace agreement was concluded in the presence of Saad Kambash, the head of the Sunni Endowment, in addition to a number of sheikhs of the two tribes. During the meeting, it was agreed to allow the return of all IDP families from both tribes to their AoO, where the Sunni endowment bears half of the blood compensation amount, equivalent to IQD 250 million to facilitate the return of the families. Hence, the subsequent returns of the concerned population groups are expected.

Kirkuk

Risk of displacement due to land ownership issues

Protection team reported on a conflict over land ownership, in Sargaran sub-district near Dibbis district where there are Kurdish families are living and working on agricultural lands, but since there has been multiple change of land ownership over the years since the Arabization campaign now Arab families are trying to claim the land. Arab citizens with support by a committee from the agriculture directorate tried to claim ownership of Kabarka village in Saragan sub-district and the right of use the green lands there, the group-based allegations on a contract signed during the period of Baath regime ruling in which Arabs have given right to use the lands. The Kurdish families called the police and the Iraqi federal forces interfered and forced the argument to end without settlement. 200 Kurdish individuals are at risk of eviction because they are living and working at these agricultural lands.

Risk of displacement due to security threats

Protection team in Daquq district reported on a kidnapping incident committed against innocent people from (Sabah Nissan) village near the district, according to the report, the villagers are under frequent attacks by extremist groups who infiltrate the village during dark times, enforcing them to extortion. Earlier in September, three people were released post paying ransom with huge amounts, the families failed to report the kidnapping incidents to safeguard the lives of the victims after serious threats of killing them if the families reach out the law enforcement. 75 families in Sabah Nissan village in Daquq district may be forced to leave their and be displaced due to security issues that they are facing.

2c. Thematic Update from GBV Sub-Cluster

- Call for interest to GBV SAG: Inclusion of 2 international, 2 national women-led organization. we seek expression of interest from the interested INGOs and national women-led NGOs with regards to joining the GBV SC Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) by November 15, 2021. As SAG members, the GBV SC Coordination Team will seek your inputs and consult you on strategic issues pertaining to GBV SC needs analysis, proposal reviews as well as programmatic, operational, advocacy, resource mobilization, training and capacity building, GBV localization efforts, awareness raising and community sensitization, and access related issues, etc.

Selection Criteria:

- Experience in GBV programs
- Registered in Iraq and KRI
- The national NGO shall be a women-led organization.
- Updates on GBV & Cash WG Joint Task Force Action Plan. Joint meeting will happen in the coming weeks.
- Preparation for 16 Days of Activism Campaign, theme is #UNiTEd we stand in ENDING the violence against women and girls. Online Calendar has been shared with GBV partners.
- GBV CM Task Force is in the process of reviewing the case management tools, intake form, consent form, referral sheet, case follow and case closure forms. The task force will hold a bi-lateral meeting UNICEF regarding the tool revision.
- GBVIMS; DGOs using PRIMERO version 1.7 will be upgraded from to version 2. GBVIMS+ for the government roll out has progressed

- The Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit consultant has started holding meetings with local and international NGOs around the use of M&E toolkit and its contextualization.

2d. Thematic Update from Child Protection Sub-Cluster

- CAAFAG Reintegration Program Training: Iraq is one of the piloted counties for the new CAAFAG Reintegration Program toolkit. In coordination with the MRM WG, there's been series of workshops for partners conducting reintegration programs. Based on the outcomes of these workshop, the consultant with the partners will contextualize the toolkit in a designed training which will happen in the second week of December in Erbil.
- Developing Awareness Raising Messages for 2022: Based on the case trend analysis, CMWG with partners will prioritize CP risks based on their size or severity, to develop awareness raising messages targeting children, caregivers and the community. The developed messages in the past on child labour, sexual harassment and child marriage will be reviewed and updated. More clarification will be shared with partners on awareness raising implementation to be more structured.
- CPSC Coordinator position has been filled: The new CPSC coordinator has been hired and will be online after 14th November. Once join, will circulate introduction email and contact information.
- Recruitment process of the CMWG chair is ongoing, the current CMWG chair will be online up to 30th Nov. to try to avoid any gap in the position.

2e. Thematic Update from Mine Action Sub-Cluster

• MASC workshop on need assessment and response planning

The MASC jointly conducted a workshop with the DMA to discuss the need assessments process and the priorities for response planning of 2022. The main recommendations from the workshop were to prioritize clearance and survey particularly in governorates with less support, also to complete non-technical survey particularly in Diyala and Kirkuk to update the data of mine action, the need to use more effective risk education methods and cover gap locations, support from humanitarian partners on integration of victims' data in order to better address the needs of explosive ordnance victims.

• MASC Localization plan efforts

As recommended during the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) discussions on cluster status in August 2021, the MASC consulted its members on the sector future coordination platform. The feedback and recommendations from partners will guide UNMAS technical support efforts with the national authorities and also used for the upcoming discussion with the HCT on cluster transition.

In a related note, the MASC is exploring the training opportunities that can be delivered to the national authorities from humanitarian community on protection, HLP and conflict sensitivity to ensure humanitarian principles are respected in mine action work. The discussions of the aforementioned workshop will be taken into consideration in the design of the capacity building programs.

• Support to draft national standard on victim assistance

Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action endorsed an International Mine Action Standard on Victim Assistance 03.17 in October 2021. The humanitarian partners will work with the national authorities on drafting the national standard on victim assistance. The standard will help addressing the needs of existing victims and reducing the number of new victims which are the primary objectives of the mine action sector.

2f. Thematic Update from HLP Sub-Cluster

• Progress on disbursement of the compensation claims in Ninewa

HLP partners in Ninewa met with the Director of the Nineveh Compensation Committee, Muhammad Al-Akla to follow on the submission of the compensation claims up to date. The directors informed partners that so far the Compensation Committee has received 70,000. From them, there are approximately 50,000 claims related to the HLP. However, out of 50,000 compensation claims, there are 10,000 claims in process of disbursement and so far, 7,000 already received their financial entitlements and 3,000 of the successful claimants are in the process to be disbursed. Most of the compensation claims are related to the year 2018-2019.

• New compensation bylaw approved

HLP Sub-cluster together with partners and in close collaboration with counterparts from Central Compensation Committees, members from Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Trade, General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, Independent High Commission for Human Rights, Heads of Central Compensation Committee, Head of Martyrs Foundation, and Public Prosecution Office in June 2021 submitted the new bylaw to the Minister of Finance for approval. Finally, the bylaw on implementation mechanisms for compensating the legal persons (companies) has been approved by the Minister of Finance. The new bylaw will establish the tools and the mechanisms for compensating the legal persons (companies) based on the recently amended law. Further, it establishes the procedures to compensate the new category (legal persons-private companies) and will unify the procedures with the other property sub-categories for compensation.

Action point: HLP SC to follow up on the amount of titled for the damage.

2h. Updates from NPC

- **Update HNO/HRP process** = NPC updated on the status of HNO (finalized and submitted to the HCT members for final review) and the HRP. The NPC had defined targets for the 2022 response and corresponding budget (based on activity-based costing). GP, HLP and MA will target a higher number than the acute PIN number, for two main reasons: (1) individuals in need of protection services do not only need one service but more and this

factor needs to be considered when defining targets and corresponding budget; (2) HLP core humanitarian activities (legal assistance and awareness raising activities finalized to the provision of a service) will be included – despite request of HCT members to remove HLP indicators and corresponding findings from the calculation of the NPC PIN. This position has already been presented to the HCT and will be restated in the upcoming presentation/defense of NPC HRP targets in front of the HCT panel members. Overall, the NPC is projecting a reduction of approximately 17M USD for GP, MA and HLP activities in 2022. More in the ppt.

- **NPC Legal Analysis report** = the Protection Cluster finalized a thematic report on access to civil documentation/legal assistance. The document was shared with NPC members, the Global Protection Cluster, TCC RWG and DSWTG members. Follow up on some policy recommendations will be initiated in the coming weeks with engagement from relevant actors. The report is available here: <https://data.globalprotectioncluster.org/en/documents/details/552>
- **Update on upcoming 2021 IHF Reserve Allocation** = IHF will soon launch the 2021 Reserve Allocation (12M USD in total) to be divided by 4 Clusters
 - Protection (including Child Protection, GBV and General Protection)
 - Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA)
 - Health
 - WASH

Overall Objective: To support response to address priority unmet humanitarian needs among out-of-camp IDPs (primary target) and vulnerable returnees (secondary target) in underserved locations.

Geographic targeting: out-of-camp IDPs and vulnerable returnees (those in critical shelter and/or resorting to emergency-level negative coping mechanisms)

Governorate	District
Ninewa	Al-Baaj, Al-Hatra and Sinjar districts
Salah Al-Din	Balad, Samarra and Tooz Khurmato districts
Diyala	Baquba district (for out-of-camp IDP response)
Kirkuk	Dibis district

- Submission from NNGOs and from international partners with NNGO partnerships to be prioritized. For the latter, a mandatory capacity-building component to be included in the log frame and budgeted accordingly. To ensure a timely impact on the ground, the consortium modality is not a priority under this allocation and the recommended total number of partners per proposal is up to three.
 - Only projects submitted by partners with established operational presence/access and capacity to implement projects in targeted locations (for this, partners should have reported their activities on the Activity Info platform in 2020 and/or 2021, or should have consulted relevant clusters prior to submitting a proposal under the allocation.
 - For districts where clusters may want to target but do not have a partner will be discussed on a case by case basis.
 - One partner may submit only one proposal under the allocation.
- The Cluster will provide more info in the coming days/weeks via the mailing list.

3. AOB

- Next NPC meeting to be confirmed.