

1. **Review of Action Points from 12 August, 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 – HNO/HRP process; Roll-out of Services Advisor**
3. **AOB**
  - Presentation on the experiences of GBV and barriers to access services among persons with disability by Heartland Alliance

### 1. Review of Action Points from 12 August, 2021

Minutes adopted without amendments.

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

#### Dohuk

- **Explosion in Rwanga IDP camp:** On 30 August, an explosion occurred in Rwanga IDP camp. The incident led to 2 casualties and 5 injuries among camp residents. In the aftermath, protection partners conducted a mission to the camp to assess the situation of the affected families. The main protection concerns identified related to psychological first aid (PFA), as no documentation were lost or additional specific needs identified. Consequently, the MHPSS Working Group and IOM took the lead in coordinating PFA activities for the affected families. The DPWG continues to monitor the situation through regular communication with camp management and refer partners intending to provide MHPSS assistance to the working group to prevent duplication and ensure consistency and protection sensitivity in the response.
- **Joint mission to Sina village:** On 25 August, the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) in Duhok, with the participation of the DPWG, conducted a joint field mission to Sina village near Sharia town. The objective of the mission was to assess the situation of IDPs living in the village, including their profile and protection challenges, with the view to establish protection priorities and plan interventions accordingly. The main protection challenges relate to access to education and civil documentation, and the limited prospects for the return of the IDPs to their area of origin in Sinjar due to the reported presence of armed groups and destroyed infrastructure.
- **Spontaneous returns of IDPs from Dohuk to Ninewa:** Returns continued in August. IDP return data shared by the Directorate of Migration and Crisis Response (DMCR) revealed that 40 families (136 individuals) returned from camps and urban areas in Duhok to Ninewa, representing a 58% decrease compared to the previous month. This brings the total number of IDPs who have returned to Ninewa since July 2020 to 9,841 families (49,899 individuals).
- **IDPs Admissions Committee:** The Admissions Committee established by DMCR granted 18 families (85 individuals) admission to camps in August. To date, 264 applications were submitted, and 195 interviews were conducted, of which 193 applications (962 individuals) have been reviewed and granted admission to camps. Among the main reasons for reverse returns in August include the reported fragile security situation in the areas of origin, lack of basic services, and lack of livelihoods. Based on the data received from DMCR, it is observed that most of the families who requested it were admitted. The Committee established by DMCR issued 13 decisions between March and September 2021, granting admission to 193 families comprised of 962 individuals out of a total of 264 applications, the rest of which are still pending. In addition, the DPWG conducted an assessment of reverse returns based on the Admissions Committee's decisions and found that in June and July, the Committee has been admitting more cases to urban locations vis-à-vis camps. This had only happened in March, whereby two families were admitted to Zakho town. However, in July a third of the admissions (14 families) concerned IDPs returning to urban areas, including Shariya settlement, Zakho, Dohuk and Baadre. These developments indicate that the Committee's mandate goes beyond camp admission, as it also includes access to Dohuk Governorate.

## Sulymaniah

- In the last PMS 58% of KIs reported that some or most people are missing their civil documentation and 35% of KIs assess the level of access to Civil Affairs Directorates (CADs) as negative. This was higher than the national access to civil documentation and higher than Dohuk and Erbil. To verify this need the protection partners conducted a verification exercise for some 3,300 IDP families in Sulaymaniyah to identify the need of civil documentation. It was concluded that a total of 2,495 families are lacking the National Unified Card (1,218 families in camps- 1,277 families in urban areas). Advocacy will be conducted on Baghdad level to resume the MoI missions to assist IDPs in Suleymaniah to obtain National Unified Cards. The last time that such MoI missions were conducted in Suleymaniah was in 2019.

## Erbil

- Following the incident on the Erbil-Makhmour road, where suspected ISIS militants set up an illegal road block on 6 August, security authorities in Debaga imposed stricter security measures in the area. It was reported by Debaga Asayish that about 200 – 300 families living in the Debaga area – mostly IDPs of Arab ethnicity – received an eviction notice by mid-August. After advocacy by OCHA and UNHCR, it was reported on 19 August that the evictions have been suspended. However, it was reported that the authorities have requested land owners to let go of IDPs, which could result in a return if they cannot find any other livelihood opportunities.
- As a result of the same security incident, security actors also imposed movement restrictions for IDPs living in Debaga camp. Only emergency cases – including legal and medical cases – were allowed to leave the camp, after obtaining approval by both camp management and camp Asayish. These restrictions had serious consequences for IDPs who no longer could access their livelihoods. On 13 September, a committee composed of General Asayish, Peshmerga and EDMCR convened to discuss the situation. It was decided that daily labourers and labourers with longer term contracts would be able to leave the camp again. Daily labourers have to leave their BCF card with Asayish, while ‘long term’ labourers need to present a support letter by their business owner. However, movement restrictions remain in place for some villages close to Qarachokh mountain for security reason.
- On another note between 24 September and 2 October, the MOI committee for civil documentation will conduct a mission to all 6 IDP camps to issue civil IDs and nationality cards for IDPs originating from Ninewa. As part of a pilot project, the mission will also issue civil documentation to urban IDPs from Ninewa.

## Ninewa

- **Jeddah 5:** A trend since mid-July has been that families from areas of displacement or areas of origin have been pushed out and subsequently reached Jeddah 5. Families arrived from KRI (Debaga and Gwer) and SAD (Al Eitha and Ganoos in Shirqat), a total of 561 individuals. The last families who were registered in Jeddah 5 was on 7 September. After this day no one was allowed to enter the camp. MoMD stated that no more new arrivals will be allowed to enter the camp. Regarding the situation of families who may be evicted from any out-of-camp area, in case there will be an official eviction notice, and after coordination with the minister and the security authorities, MoDM will be sending an official email to IOM for registration.

On 7 September NPWG conducted a mission to Jeddah 5 and met with families from Shirqat, SAD and from Debaga and Gwer, KRI. The families from Shirqat were FHHs and mentioned that the authorities had asked them to leave due to perceived affiliation. They also mentioned that they would like to return back to their area of origin, Ganoos and Al Eitha village in Shirqat if allowed to and they believed that after the elections they might be able to so.

The families from Debaga and Gwer mentioned that they did not face any problems with Asayesh before the incident that took place at the beginning of August. The families are from in Ninewa and SAD and they were formerly in camps in Ninewa but as these closed they left to Debaga where they have been working in agriculture. They mentioned that some 50 HHs had been asked to leave due to their Arab ethnicity and that most families came to Jeddah 5 as they could not return to their area of origin. They also mentioned that they would not want to return to Debaga and Gwer now but rather stay in the camp.

On 20 September IOM will conduct another round of facilitated voluntary returns to Ninewa and SAD. Some 100 HHs will be a part of this movement. Protection partners are following up with the concerned families who have open cases. Protection partners are also present in camp when the security clearance procedures are taking place.

- **Urban areas:** OCHA conducted a mission to Sinjar mountain on 16 August and identified the following protection concerns: 1) Many families have withdrawn their children from school and enlisted them with non-stated armed actors in the area so they can receive wages/salaries to support their families; 2) The IDP representatives complained about the work of some humanitarian organizations, highlighted that they are not providing sufficient support and explained that as a result the residents are relying on the support of non-state armed actors and political groups for assistance/support; 3) IDP representatives have also reported an increase in GBV cases, suicide cases, other mental health related issues as well child labor.

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

### Kirkuk

- Members of the Kirkuk PWG reported that on 7 September, 20 Kurdish families in Shahil village in Sargaran sub-district, Dibis district had been displaced to Debaga sub-district, in Makhmour in Ninawa governorate based on families' statement they displaced due to recent deterioration of the security situation in the village. Iraqi security forces leave the village at night and return to it during the day, and this is recurring every day for a month ago. Therefore families feel unsafe and requested advocacy with security forces to maintain their presence for the purpose ensuring safety in the area. Protection partners with access to Debaga city are to follow up with families.

### Anbar

- **AAF camp consolidation:** The AAF consolidation is pending the implementation. The consolidation is to affect 8 sectors accommodating some 153 HH. The affected HH are being consulted on the preferred location within AAF to be relocated. The actors are continuing wash/shelter maintenance as part of the preparations for the consolidation. The anti-COVID-19 measures are in place. Those confirmed with COVID-19 or who have been in contact with those who have contracted the virus, have been requested to stay behind (as needed) to avoid any potential community spread. No public gatherings are allowed during the process. On September 8th, the AOC imposed restrictions on freedom of movement in the camp, which were subsequently lifted within a few days. The reasons are not known. 68 out of the 74 HHs who were registered to return through IOM's voluntary returns program have been cleared by the Anbar Operations Command and departed the camp on September 6-7. Of the first convoy with 48 HHs that departed on September 6, only 46 were allowed by the PMF to cross the Fallujah check point. The remaining 2 HHs with perceived affiliation to extremist groups were not allowed to depart the area and had to return back to the camp. On the second day, 22 HH successfully returned to their areas of origin within Anbar. Another 12 HHs departed this week with 8 HHs being able to return to their AoOs and 4 HHs being turned back due to alleged affiliation with ISIL. The returning families are being supported with return grants by IOM to cover the transportation costs ranging from USD 150 – 300 depending on the area of return. WFP is providing food parcels. Protection actors are joining the convoys to ensure that the returns are conducted in safety and dignity, and to provide protection support as needed. HHs who changed their mind about returning to their AoOs cite a lack of security clearance from the authorities and/or social cohesion concerns and tribal issues. Protection assessments are to be conducted with the concerned HH.
- **Secondary displacement to Bzebiz:** 5 families reportedly displaced from Al-Qaim, Baghdad and Sulaymaniyah have arrived to Bzebiz in search of better economic opportunities. As observed by the partners, poor economic conditions are a push factor for secondary displacement as increasing number of IDPs citing search of better economic opportunities as the main reason for secondary displacement.
- **Risk of eviction in Kilo 7 Ramadi:** As reported on August 15, the Ministry of Housing announced its plans to rehabilitate the kilo 7 complex in Ramadi, hosting some 500 HHs. The Ministry is said to allocate 20% of the complex infrastructure to the IDP families, which implies that majority of the IDPs are to still be evicted. The local government is reaching to humanitarian actors to seek their support in advocating against the planned eviction.
- **Findings of the interagency missions to Ramadi and Garma:** The interagency mission conducted to Ramadi – Al-Hmera, Al-Tash 1, 2 and 3 areas on August 24<sup>th</sup> revealed the following protection issues: high need for legal assistance for civil documentation due to the limited access to CAD (available in Ramadi city only), and lack of basic services, including health/wash/shelter. The interagency mission conducted the following day to Garma district revealed severe gaps and needs in terms of education, health and documentation. The documentation needs are to be prioritized as agreed with the legal actors. The actors were also requested to cover Alkhayrat subdistrict of Garma where gaps in assistance have been identified due to the prevailing security situation.
- **Civil documentation assistance (CAD mission to Kilo 7):** On the 4th of Sep., a CAD mission was conducted to Kilo 7 in coordination with IRC legal team. Some 195 applications of IDPs residing in Kilo 18 and Kilo 7 were processed.

### Diyala

- **Displacement and returns:** 7 families were displaced from Albu Baker village in Al-Adhaim sub-districts to the city center of Al-Adhaim because of the security situation in this area. 95 families tried to return back to Arab Faris village in Muqadiyah but failed due to the lack of infrastructure and pending mine clearance.

## **Salah al-Din**

- **Forced evictions (Al Eitha, Ganoos):** In parallel to the relocation of families with perceived affiliations to ISIL from Al Eitha village, 9 families from Ganoos were asked to leave the area in Shirqat by the controlling PMF. The concerned families subsequently went to J5 camp in Ninewa. The reasons appear to be similar to those from Al-Eitha.
- **Potential returns to Ajelia, Al Shehaby, and Al Asira:** Returnees in the areas of Ajelia and Al Shehaby expressed their intentions to leave their AoO due to the absence of basic services. Families also report lack of livelihood opportunities. Talks regarding the return of families to Al Asira village, which is one of the no return areas in north of SAD are continuing. Parliament member, Qutaiba Al Jubori alongside with SAD governor appeared lately on a video conducting meetings with tribal leaders of Al Asria village and calling, via phone, a leader of Resalyoon PMF group who is responsible for the security profile in the area, asking for his support in allowing the return of the families to the village. According to government officials, the return of the families will start soon. It is worth to mention that 95% of the infrastructure in the village is destroyed according to the Mayor of Senya.
- **COVID vaccination and restricted access to government institutions:** As discussed during the LTF, legal actors are raising their concerns with regard to the recent requirement of the Iraqi government to limit the access to government institutions (including courts) to vaccinated individuals only. The requirement is severely limiting the scope of legal assistance to be provided to the POC in need.

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

### **Joint GBV Cash Task Force:**

The GBV SC and the Cash WG initiated a collaboration on GBV mainstreaming and the integration of cash and voucher assistance in GBV response interventions. The draft ToRs and work plan of the Joint GBV Cash Task Force has been reviewed and endorsed by the task force members.

### **Technology Facilitated GBV Task Force**

This is a new Task Force under the GBV SC. The overall objective of the Task Force is to reduce TFGBV through strengthened prevention and response efforts across Iraq through effective and inclusive protection mechanisms that promote a coherent, comprehensive, and coordinated approach to TFGBV including prevention, mitigation, response, capacity building, identifying and mobilizing interventions that address risks and vulnerabilities to TFGBV, and establishing referral systems for survivors at the regional level. Coordination and reporting mechanisms will focus on tracking results and informing Task Force members on periodic progress made on work plan activities.

### **Case management capacity building initiative**

This one-year project is part of the regional initiative by UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR and the GBV sub-cluster in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. The project has three components: i) GBV Case Management Capacity Building Initiative through strengthening the capacity of GBV service providers working on case management in order to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and establish a national pool of trainers to train other service providers on GBV case management; ii) Rollout of Caring for Child survivors resources; iii) Expansion of Primero/GBVIMS+

### **GBVIMS**

The work plan for 2021 – 2022 has been amended in light of the new Information Sharing Protocol. The GBVIMS mid-year report for the overall data and Q2 for the refugee data has been disseminated to all relevant stakeholders.

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

### **Technical Guidance Notes on Child Labour, Child Marriage, Neglect & Physical Abuse**

To support case workers to better identify and assess child protection risks, the CMWG has developed four technical guidance notes on Child Labour, Child Marriage, Neglect & Physical Abuse, which have been shared with partners. Each of these guidance notes provide an introduction on the risk, legal background, tips and guidance to consider during the identification and assessment of the cases. These guidance notes came after the CMWG through the quarterly case trends analysis found that case workers needed more support in the identification of children at risk of child labour, child marriage neglect and abuse.

### **Resumption of SPSS/Group Activities**

As school season will start very soon and has already started in KRI and in light of the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination campaign, some CPSC partners have started resuming group activities on a smaller scale especially for SPSS interventions. To support partners in using the facilities and the group activities in a safe manner, a check list has been adapted to assist partners to record progress against each of the activities and the actions they have to take to make sure that the resumption of the group activities doesn't lead to unwanted outcomes. The document can be accessed [through this link](#).

### **Capacity Building roll-out on CAAFAG reintegration**

CPSC and MRM WG have applied for a capacity building opportunity roll-out on CAAFAG reintegration, to be conducted by the global CAAFAG TF. The roll-out is planned for the last quarter of 2021 starting with a stakeholder workshop, secondary data review and F2F training in December. More details on this opportunity will be discussed within the MRM WG.

### **HNO Process**

Preparing for HNO 2022, the CP findings will be presented in the next CPSC meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The meeting will be also used as a forum for partners to comment of the findings and discuss the captured and non-captured needs to plan the way forward.

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

### **Capacity enhancement partnerships between INGOs and NNGOs**

There are currently a number of partnerships between international NGOs (INGOs) and national NGOs (NNGOs) to build the capacity of national partners in risk education and explosive hazard management (EHM). The aim is to transfer the skills, knowledge and attributes required for the independent conduct of humanitarian mine action activities by the NNGOs and to be able to operate safely and effectively in accordance with National and International Standards, under the accreditation of that NNGO. For the EHM partnerships, one of the NNGO recently received accreditation for clearance. Two other NGOs are proceeding with preparing the requirements from the Directorate of mine action as part of the application to receive accreditation to be able to implement survey and clearance operations.

### **Requests for mine action support from authorities**

Requests for explosive ordnance clearance continually come from the authorities. Recently Kirkuk Governorate Return Committee secretary joined the MASC meeting to present the needs for mine action to support restoration of areas damaged during the conflict with ISIL and highlighted that explosive ordnance poses an obstacle for development efforts in the governorate. During an inter-agency visit to Baiji district in Salah Al-Din, the authorities called for more mine action interventions in the district. In Al-Asriya Village the authorities stressed that the first priority is to survey and check the explosive ordnance presence. Authorities in Ninewa and Anbar also shared with humanitarian partners the locations that require clearance to assist in stabilization and reconstruction efforts.

### **Risk mitigation efforts**

As part of risk mitigation efforts there have been some activities in areas of Ninewa and Anbar to reduce the risk of explosive incidents for at-risk groups - including children and youth - in collaboration with local authorities. For example, The Green Community Park in Mosul's old city provides a safe place for the community in general and the youth in particular. The park will be officially opened by the local authorities in November. In Sinjar the construction of a volleyball court in Dukri village in Sinjar was recently completed. In Al-Garma in Anbar the construction/renovation of a playground area to provide a child friendly space for children who are at risk and have limited options to play in safe areas.

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

### **Advocacy efforts to activate Compensation Committee in KRG and Compensation Sub-committee in Dohuk**

HLP partners in Dohuk met with the Judge of the Investigation Court to discuss the issues of compensation and activation of the compensation sub-committee in the governorate. The court highlighted that the law on compensation (Law no. 20 of 2009) does not include people affected by military operations in Kurdistan. The Judge also explained that due to special jurisdiction of the Dohuk Appeal Court, cases for compensation can be submitted at the governorate level only and not at the district level. However, the compensation committee has not been activated at the governorate level. It is believed that the main reason for not activating the compensation committee in Kurdistan is the lack of financial resources to compensate the victims. HLP partners also raised concerns regarding the lack of clarity regarding the applicability of the law on compensation for damaged/destroyed properties. Only federal laws which are approved and legislated by the parliament of Kurdistan can be applied in Kurdistan. Accordingly, if the KRG authorities are willing to activate the Iraqi compensation law, the Parliament of the KRG should enact a special law to facilitate the implementation of the federal law. HLP partners will follow-up on this issue by further studying the legislative framework and by advocating for the activation of the compensation committee in the KRI.

### **Progress on compensation claims in Ninewa**

HLP partners reported that the compensation committee in Ninewa has so far processed 9,300 cases, most which relate to damaged/destroyed houses. A total of IQD 58 billion is expected to be distributed to successful beneficiaries in the near future. According to a letter issued by the Ministry of Finance the budget allocated for compensation in Ninewa will be increased to IQD 106 Billion. However, the payment modality and the distribution mechanism are still unclear. HLP partners will follow-up and provide updates at a later stage.

## **2h. Updates from NPC**

### **HNO and HRP process**

The clusters are currently working on the HNO analysis, including the calculations of PIN / acute PIN, severity by districts and priority issues, based on the data from the MCNA and other relevant data sources. Preliminary analysis indicates that the inter-sectoral figures for this year would be a PIN of 1.9M and an acute PIN of 0.86M, a significant decrease compared to the figures of respectively 4.14M and 2.44M from last year. Unlike last year there won't be an overall PIN / acute PIN for the NPC as a whole. Rather the figures will be calculated jointly for GP, HLP and MA, and separately for GBV and CP. For GP, HLP and MA, the preliminary figures are a PIN of 1.5M and an acute PIN of 423K, a progressive decrease compared to the figures from last year of respectively 2.2M and 820K. These figures may be adjusted after final review and validation.

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, all the clusters will present their preliminary findings to the HC and a panel of key stakeholders (UN agencies, NGOs, donors). Once feedback and validation has been received, the clusters will proceed with the drafting of the HNO narrative, which will require review and validation by the SAG prior to submission to OCHA. On October 17, a strategic deep dive will be organized among the HCT, donors and ICCG to outline the strategic objectives, framework and priorities for the response and to initiate the HRP drafting process.

### **Roll-out of Services Advisor**

The roll-out of the new version of Services Advisor - the NPC's online platform whereby all protection actors can register their services by locations for the purpose of facilitating services referrals - is ongoing. So far, 61 protection partners have registered their services across a total of 552 locations. The details of which services have been registered where by which organization can be asked to the NPC by each organization for the purpose of internal verification. The training materials and supporting documents on how to set-up and utilize the new Services Advisor platform are also available on the NPC website. The NPC strongly encourages partner organizations who have not yet registered their services to contact the NPC team for support and guidance.

## **3. AOB**

Heartland Alliance gave a presentation the findings of a field research the organisation conducted on the issue of experiences of GBV and the barriers to access services among persons with disability. Please refer to the PPT presentation for more details and contact Claire O'Reilly ([OREILC39@tcd.ie](mailto:OREILC39@tcd.ie)) and Leah James ([ljames@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:ljames@heartlandalliance.org)) for further information.