

## Highlights

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- During the first quarter of 2021, several meetings with the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) took place to start the preparations of the preparedness project activities in the central and southern regions of Iraq. The list of stakeholders from both government and humanitarian sides have been identified and invited to attend the Field-Based Preparedness Project (FBPP) workshop in Baghdad. Additionally, JCC representatives attended the workshop to reflect on their experience during the Preparedness Project activities that had been carried out in early 2020 in KRI.
- JCMC, lead of the FBPP project in the central and southern regions, sent official invitations to the government entities to join the preparedness project workshop through the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers. The list of invitees from government's side was carefully reviewed to ensure proper representation of government entities that are heavily invested in the disaster response and contribute to the supply chain infrastructure in the country. Furthermore, invitations were sent to key humanitarian actors actively functioning in the central and southern regions of Iraq, as well as to the private sector.
- In the first week of February 2021, the FBPP workshop taking place in Baghdad aimed to:
  - Introduce the FBPP to stakeholders from government, humanitarian community, and private sector;
  - Present the activities that were carried out in KRI in 2020;
  - Explain the project's objectives, activities, and next steps (including Gaps Analysis Workshop);
  - Assess the participants interest about the FBPP and emphasize on commitment and involvement.
- The FBPP introduction workshop was attended by 48 participants representing different government entities – directly or indirectly involved in the preparedness project activities , the private sector, and the humanitarian community (NGOs, INGOs, UN Agencies, Iraqi Red Crescent, International Committee of the Red Cross.) The government representatives were high-ranking officials from various ministries and provinces. The representatives of the humanitarian actors were highly experienced professionals in supply chain and logistics fields.
- A representative from UNICEF participated in the workshop and presented the support that UNICEF is providing to governments to procure and obtain vaccination for COVID-19 (COVAX.)
- The workshop report has been produced and translated into Arabic. Both versions (Arabic and English) have been posted on the Logistics Cluster Preparedness [webpage](#). Additionally, the report was communicated via JCMC to the government entities that attended the workshop.
- The Preparedness Officer organized a meeting with WFP, the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit, and JCC to discuss the timeline and agenda of the GIS training provided by WFP aiming to strengthen JCC's GIS capacity. A subsequent meeting with the WFP VAM expert took place to discuss the possibility of implementing Log:ie by JCMC using available resources, while technical support and consultation would be provided.
- Several meetings were conducted with representatives from telecommunication companies (namely ZainIraq and AsiaCell) who showed a great interest in the Preparedness Project and willingness to participate in its activities. The possibility of establishing cooperation and partnership within the Preparedness Project framework was discussed during the meetings and a positive feedback was received.

## Background

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In late 2019 and early 2020, the FBPP activities were kicked off in KRI as part of the first phase of the project. Several preliminary meetings with high-ranked officials in KRI took place to introduce the project and establish a communication and coordination mechanisms with the authorities to later involve them in the project activities. Furthermore, the Project was well received from the humanitarian community. During the first quarter of 2020, several activities took place and resulted in the development of the Action Plan, translated into Arabic and sent for endorsement by the KRI's Government.

As part of the Preparedness Project second phase, the Preparedness Officer started to plan the implementation of the Project activities in the country's central and southern regions. This phase has been initiated with the signature of an agreement with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) represented by the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center (JCMC), which falls under the authority of the General Secretariat for the Council of Ministers of Iraq and is responsible for coordinating the humanitarian response during crisis. Meanwhile, the facts finding activities were carried out via various methods including questionnaire, interviews, group discussions, etc. In early February 2021, WFP, together with the Global Logistics Cluster (GLC) and under the JCMC leadership, organized one-day FBPP introduction workshop that gathered actors from different government entities and the humanitarian community.

The workshop helped laying down the foundations for the coming Preparedness Project activities in the central and southern regions and increased awareness on the importance of investing in this project, while emphasizing on the role of the partners (government, humanitarians, and the private sector) in achieving the objectives and successfully implementing the Project's activities. The role of JCMC, as the project's lead, was highlighted. Moreover, the potential involvement of the private sector – especially the telecommunication companies – in the project was explored and received positive feedback from attendees. The workshop report was drafted, translated into Arabic, and shared with participants.

Subsequently, the preparations for the next step of the FBPP in Federal Iraq have started under the leadership of JCMC, notably by analysing the information obtained during the facts finding stage, and developing a presentation and workshop agenda for the coming Gaps Analysis Workshop (GAW), which was briefly introduced during the workshop.

Furthermore, the preparations to hold a strategic meeting in Erbil bringing together JCMC in the Central and South and JCC in KRI, from the government side, and representatives of humanitarian actors have started. The tentative plan of the visit has been shared, yet some logistical details need to be finalized before identifying the exact dates of the visit. During the visit, critical topics will be discussed such as cooperation strengthening between the Project co-leads, identifying occurrences of overlapping, introduction of Log:ie with a view to implementing it in Iraq, and initiating discussions to develop a national Action Plan. This 3-day visit is considered as the foundation of the third stage of the Project, in which the focus will be on developing an action plan at national level, while addressing all the interrelated challenges and gaps. During the visit, the possibility of reconstructing the One-Stop-Shop will be briefly discussed with JCC representatives. Moreover, several virtual meetings with WFP VAM Unit and JCC representatives took place to discuss the agenda and training material for the Geographical Information System (GIS) training in order to establish a data collection and reporting platform similar to Log:ie, which will help to report incidents in real time and increase visualization.

## Coordination

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- Being the chair of the Logistics Working Group, the Preparedness Officer is coordinating the group activities and collaborating with UN agencies to identify logistics challenges and gaps, while encouraging involvement in the Preparedness Project activities and establishing communication channels with relevant authorities.
- An ongoing coordination process is taking place with heads of JCMC and JCC to agree on the final agenda for the coming strategic meeting in Erbil and on the day of the visit. Contact with key humanitarian actors was initiated to invite them to join the meeting and share their experience of common challenges impacting the humanitarian community supply chain operations.
- The Baghdad FBPP workshop has been actively advocated for to foster the humanitarian community involvement in the Preparedness Project future activities.

## Information management

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- The IM Unit supported by drafting the invitation letters for the FBPP workshop in Baghdad, revising the subsequent report, and publishing related content on the Preparedness dedicated webpage.

### Contacts

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