Quarterly Update, Jan. – March. 2022

Iraq – Preparedness

Highlights

**Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC)**

- During the first quarter of 2022, the logistics preparedness officer was approached by JCC focal point requesting collaboration and support for implementing the Logistics Information Exchange (Log.IE) platform at JCC headquarters in Erbil/KRI. Accordingly, several meetings took place virtually to further discuss the steps and required assessments in order to ensure the proper governance of the platform by JCC information management unit. Therefore, an official letter was developed and shared with JCC as a first step toward establishing cooperation.

- During a meeting with JCC, the possibility of reviving the plan of action that was developed as an outcome of the gaps analysis workshop conducted in 2020 in KRI in cooperation with JCC was explored. The focal point of JCC welcomed the idea and requested to share the plan in both English and Kurdish languages in order to be presented to the senior management at JCC. An update will be shared in the coming few weeks.

**Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC)**

- After successfully convening the plan of action endorsement meeting in Dec. 2021, the report of the meeting was developed, translated into the Arabic Language, and shared with JCMC for revisions and input. The report captures activities that took place during the meeting and the comment and feedback of the project partners and stakeholders.

- Adjustments to the plan of action were discussed thoroughly with JCMC aiming to ensure the timelines for implementing the listed activities reflect the current situation. Additionally, a revision of the involved stakeholders’ input was done.

- The Arabic version of the plan of action endorsement meeting report is under revision by JCMC and, subsequently, a summary of the meeting’s report and plan of action will be submitted for endorsement by the Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers.

- A report reflecting the outcome of the Log.IE meeting that took place the fourth quarter of 2021 was developed, published, and shared with JCMC. Based on the outcome of the meeting, JCMC has started to plan for the implementation phase of the project in cooperation with the preparedness officer. Yet, one of the challenges is the lack of resources at JCMC Headquarters. This issue was discussed with the management of JCMC and WFP CO hoping to identify a solution.

- On a separate note, the preparedness officer had several meetings with WFP CO to discuss the sustainability of the field-based preparedness project in the long term and the required support from WFP CO to continue and build on the work that has already been done in order to strengthen the preparedness capacity of the government entities and develop a common response strategy.

https://logcluster.org/preparedness/irq19
Background

During the first quarter of 2022, the field-based preparedness activities focused mainly on finalizing the plan of action and building sustainable project outcomes, while ensuring cooperation and establishing partnerships. Accordingly, the plan of action endorsement meeting was convened in collaboration with JCMC and the participation of the government stakeholders and the subsequent report of the meeting was developed and translated into the Arabic language to be finally revised by JCMC. The JCMC will take the responsibility of having the final endorsement by the Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers. Following the senior management endorsement, the plan of action will take effect. This will cause all the stakeholders to take on their responsibilities and implement their part in the plan. JCMC will play the coordination and monitoring role by ensuring close follow-up with the stakeholders and providing the required support and guidance, whenever is needed.

Additionally, communications and discussions with WFP CO are ongoing aiming to have the buy-in at the country level and allocation of the required resources to ensure proper support to the government partners, particularly JCMC. Therefore, meetings took place with the Country Supply Chain Manager and emergency response and preparedness officer in an effort to initiate the transition and handover of the project to WFP CO. This activity will require further attention and serious follow up to ensure timely and smooth implementation of the plan of action and provision of the required support to JCMC.

On the Log.IE side, the JCMC will need augmentation in their information management capacity in terms of resources (information management officers at the headquarters level who process and validate information) and hardware. JCMC is expecting additional officers to be joining their information management department workforce, this will partially support the implementation of Log.IE. Additionally, during a meeting at the beginning of the first quarter of 2022, JCMC presented the idea of increasing the utilization of the current resources by exploring internal restructuring and optimizing the information management capacity by ensuring the same officers working on multiple projects. Taking advantage of the current partnership of JCMC with other humanitarian partners was also discussed.

Upon JCC’s request, a round of discussions took place to discuss the implementation of Log.IE in KRI. A few weeks ago, JCC finished constructing the operations room that is equipped with monitors, computers, servers, etc. The main objective behind the establishment of the operations room at JCC headquarters in Erbil, which consist of representation from the disaster response actors, is the creation of a comprehensive decision-making mechanism in one place that can help improve efficiency, communication, information sharing, and responsiveness. Consequently, JCC foresees Log.IE as an important component that will support achieving the objectives of the operations room and participate in effective information sharing during disaster response. Therefore, upon a request from JCC, an official letter that explains the stages of the project, responsibilities and requirements, monitoring and evaluation, and possible handover was developed and shared with JCC focal point. A concept
note was also developed and shared with WFP CO, as a reference for future follow-up and possible support from WFP CO’s side. The requirements and learning program were presented for JCC consideration. Additionally, a discussion took place about revisiting the plan of action that was developed in collaboration with JCC in 2020. It was agreed to share the plan in both English and Kurdish language with revision by JCC. Unless a major commitment is shown from the government counterpart (JCC) about the revision and implementation of the plan of action, no action will be made.

**Coordination**

- Several meetings with JCMC took place to discuss the steps forward with the plan of action and endorsement by the senior management in Federal Iraq (FI). Furthermore, a follow-up meeting took place to assess the progress of the endorsement.
- A meeting with WFP CO Supply Chain Unit and followed by a brief meeting with Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit to discuss building cooperation and joining forces. Another meeting is expected beginning of April.

**Information management**

- The Global Logistics Cluster Information Management unit supported the editing and revision of the endorsement report as well as the development of a letter for JCC to present the implementation steps for Log.IE.

**Contacts**

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