

Highlights

- During the 4th quarter of 2020, the preparedness officers conducted several meetings with Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center (JCMC) in Baghdad. During these meetings, the short and long terms activities of the preparedness project were discussed. It was agreed on developing a working plan that defines and explains the coming activities expected to be carried out in the coming 2-3 months. Additionally, the list of nominees from the government's side as well as the humanitarian community side were identified and thoroughly discussed and eventually agreed upon with JCMC. The government entities will be reached out and contacted in order to name their nominees, who are expected to heavily participate and contribute in the preparedness project and the coming activities. On the other hand, the humanitarian community focal points, who are functioning in the center and south, were also contacted and invited to join the coming preparedness meetings.
- During the meetings with JCMC, the focal points were invited to participate in the Global Preparedness Meeting that took place 15-17 December 2020. The JCMC provided a recorded video that summarised JCMC's role during the humanitarian response, engagement in the preparedness project, and expectation about the project. After the global preparedness meeting, JCMC contacted the preparedness officer and expressed their interested in some of the topics discussed and tools presented during the meeting.
- The preparedness officer visited the Joint Crisis Coordination Center (JCC) in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and had a meeting with the head of JCC to discuss the updates of the preparedness project and the status of the endorsement of the Plan of Action developed in March 2020. Additionally, several meetings with the focal points from JCC (the head of JCC – Erbil Branch, the head of Information Management, and the focal point of JCC Public relationship) were conducted during the visit.
- During a visit to JCC, the preparedness officer had a meeting with the nominees of the Global Preparedness Meeting. During the meeting, the updates of the preparedness project were presented and also an overview of the expected activities in 2021 were discussed. The preparedness officer worked with the JCC team to develop a presentation that was used and presented during the Global Preparedness Meeting to introduce JCC to the attendees and share JCC's expectation about the preparedness project.
- The Preparedness officer is conducting an assessment of JCC capacity to use Log:ie software for reporting supply chain disruptions in KRI. The need of GIS capacity strengthening was identified as one of the areas that needs to be focused on in order to ensure accurate reporting of events.
- As the chair of the Logistics Working Group / Business Operations Strategies, WFP is facilitating discussions and leading meetings of the group. WFP is working collaboratively with the leading agencies to develop a standardised Term of References (ToRs) for the logistics services, specifically, Storage and Warehouse Management and Transportation services. During the meetings, the first draft of the ToRs was developed and the feedback and comments received from the group members were captured and recorded, and they will be incorporated in the final draft of ToRs.
- The National Logistics preparedness officer is supporting WFP supply chain team by playing a vital role during the coordination and communication with the authorities for issuing of the access letter. The preparedness officer is WFP point of contact with the authorities responsible for granting the access letter for facilitating the movement of humanitarian cargos.

Background

During the fourth quarter of 2020, the preparedness officer started to conduct meetings with the government partners in the Kurdistan region of Iraq (KRI) and Federal Iraq (FI) regions. The preparedness officer conducted several meetings with the interlocutors from JCMC side to agree on the activities of the preparedness project in the central and southern regions of the country, after having the commitment of JCMC and project endorsed through official channel. The proposed and planned activities were customised to reflect the context in the region and were partially tailored to reflect the findings gathered during initial stages of the project and collected by qualitative methods. The work plan which was developed after the endorsement of the General Secretariat for the Council of Minister on the preparedness project was approved by JCMC, with the possibility of adjustment and alignment in the future to ensure capturing and addressing any unforeseen events/activities along the way. Accordingly, the list of nominees from the government side, who are expected to invest and participate in the preparedness project activities, was developed through a collaborative discussion between JCMC and the preparedness officer. The identified government entities were chosen based on the nature of their activities during humanitarian responses and their role in the logistics infrastructure of the country. Recently, a list of nominees from the government side was received and accordingly the first Preparedness meeting is scheduled on the 1st of February 2021.

Furthermore, the focal points from JCMC's side were encouraged to participate in the Global Preparedness meeting and to contribute to the components of the meeting material. Therefore, JCMC provided a recorded video presenting their role during the humanitarian response to disasters and stating their involvement and expectation of the preparedness project in the central and southern regions of the country.

On the other hand, a couple of meeting were organized with the head and representative of JCC in KRI. The meeting aimed to follow up on the endorsement of the Plan of Action and to ensure the commitment of JCC to the future plan and activities. The meetings were very productive and an opportunity to share updates of the preparedness project and the progress in the central and south. These meetings were followed by another meeting with representatives from JCC aimed to discuss the team preparation and participation in the Global Preparedness meeting. Following JCC active participation in the Global Preparedness meeting, the JCC and preparedness officer started an assessment of JCC capacity in Geographical Information System (GIS) in order to adopt the Log: ie, after obtaining the necessary approval for using this software to capture and report the supply chain disruption events in real-time. Additionally, a discussion was initiated, and approval obtained from WFP-VAM unit to support JCC by providing a tailored training in GIS.

As the chair of the logistics Working Group /Business Operations strategy (BOS), WFP conducted a couple of meetings with the group members from the UN agencies to discuss the development of standardised ToRs for the logistics services that can be used by all the members when needed. The leading agencies, with the support of WFP/preparedness officer, took the responsibility of developing the first draft of the ToRs and technical criteria for two common services, namely: Storage and Warehouse Management and Transportation. The ToRs were discussed, and the feedback of the group members was recorded in order to be incorporated in the final draft of the ToRs. Moreover, the preparedness officer participated in the Management Operations Team (MOT) meetings representing WFP.

Meanwhile, the preparedness officer is establishing cooperation with humanitarian actors working in the country in order to identify any opportunity for collaborative approach for strengthening government partners capacity and establishing a common response strategy country wide. The preparedness officer initiated a discussion with Technisches Hilfswerk to seek a collaborative approach to support JCC warehouse management capacity by providing training in logistics and supply chain fields.

Coordination

- As the chair of the Logistics Working Group, the WFP / preparedness officer is regularly coordinating with agencies to ensure the assigned activities of the group are carried out in a timely manner. Additionally, regular meetings are organized to keep the group members up to date with the progress of the activities. The group members will be invited to participate in the coming preparedness meetings along with the government entities.
- The relationship with the National Operations Center (NOC), which is considered as one of the key players in the preparedness project in the central and south regions of the country, is established by having several phone calls with NOC focal points. An invite to join the preparedness meeting in Baghdad was sent out to the NOC authority and a response is expected soon.
- Regular follow ups and meetings are organized with interlocutors from JCC's side aiming to follow up on the endorsement of the plan of action and the progress in carrying out preparedness activities in KRI. Moreover, an assessment of JCC capacity strengthening training is in process with the support of VAM unit.
- Representatives from JCC and JCMC were contacted and invited in the Global Preparedness Meeting. The preparedness officer worked closely with JCC to develop a presentation with audio recording that was presented during the meeting. JCMC developed a video recording that was played as part of the meeting material.

Information management

- A response from the General Secretariat for the Council of Minister, through JCMC, was received endorsing the preparedness project and confirming the participation of JCMC in the project activities. The response of JCC is still pending though. The letters were developed with the support of IM unit.
- The preparedness officer updated the list of Humanitarian actors functioning in the country. Upon a request from Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) the contact information of a selected humanitarian actors was shared.

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