

## Highlights

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- The Logistics Preparedness Officer organised a meeting with the Head of Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC) in Baghdad. During the meeting, the activities and objectives of the preparedness project were presented as well as the results of the Logistics capacity mapping survey. Furthermore, the main challenges and gaps that the humanitarian actors are facing in the Federal Iraq region were briefly discussed. The value brought by JCMC's participation and commitment to the preparedness project was also emphasized. The meeting was very productive, and the great support from JCMC's side was recognized.
- During this meeting, it was agreed that the first step to initiate the cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP) would be to officialise the relationship through an official request submitted to the General Secretariat for the Council of Minister (GSCM). The JCMC will request their participation and involvement in the preparedness project activities. The letter was drafted and shared with the Information Management unit and Support Desk for review and comment. After incorporating the comments from IM and the desk, the final draft of the letter was sent to the country office for approval. Once approved, the letter was handed over to the head of JCMC.
- Just recently, the approval of GSCM and JCMC on WFP's request was obtained. The JCMC showed their willingness to actively collaborate and participate in the preparedness project.
- WFP is now chairing the Business Operations Strategies / Logistics Working Group. The National Logistics Preparedness Officer was appointed chairperson of the Logistics Working Group. The WFP worked with the leading agencies and developed consolidated Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the agreed common services. These ToRs were shared with the group members, and it is now under final revision by the head of the leading agencies.
- The National Logistics preparedness officer maintains the contact list of the humanitarian actors supply chain personal up to date. The preparedness officer is working through various channels (JCMC, UNDP, NCCI, JCC, etc.) to reach out to the humanitarian actors, in both Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and Federal Iraq Region (FI,) to encourage their participation and involvement in the preparedness project activities.
- Regular contact with the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC) in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) is maintained to follow up on the status of the endorsement process of the Action Plan. Based on the latest update from JCC's side, the endorsement is now pending at the office of the Minister of Interior. Additionally, in order to formalize the cooperation between JCC and WFP, an official letter requesting the participation and involvement of JCC in the preparedness project was handed over to JCC for their approval.

## Background

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During the third quarter of 2020, the country border-crossing points started to gradually reopen, while ensuring following government instructions and procedures imposed due to COVID-19 crisis. Some of the entry points, such as, Ibrahim Khalil (between KRI and Turkey) and Trebil (between Iraq and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan), are still applying truck-to-truck cross loading as precautionary measures, which causes delays and long queues of trucks. Furthermore, the dissolution of the One-Stop-Shop (OSS) that was implemented by the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC) via the support of WFP / Iraq National Logistics Cluster to facilitate and shorten the time of obtaining the import permit adversely impacted the import permit process and resulted in prolongation of the time required to obtain the permit.

As the government is loosening up the restrictions that were imposed as part of COVID-19 precautionary measures, the movement and supply chain activities are retrieving gradually. During the second quarter of 2020, the complete shutdown of the government impeded the possibility of conducting meetings not only with the government authorities, but also with humanitarian actors. While during the third quarter of this year, the authorities in both KRI and FI started to slowly return to normal.

JCMC is a government entity under the authority of the General Secretariat for Council of Minister office. JCMC is one of the main government entities responsible for coordinating and facilitating the humanitarian community work and response to crisis. Since the contact with the government officials was uninterrupted and well-maintained, the National Logistics Preparedness officer was able to promptly arrange a meeting with the head of JCMC to present and request the participation of JCMC in the preparedness project implementation in the central and southern regions of Iraq.

The meeting with the head of JCMC was productive and resulted in strengthening the cooperation between WFP and JCMC. Based on the discussion during the meeting, it was agreed to initiate the process of officialising the cooperation between the two parties. An official letter requesting the involvement and commitment of JCMC to the Preparedness project was signed by both WFP and JCMC. The next stage in the preparedness project in the FI will be the drafting of collaborative and common plan by both WFP and JCMC to identify activities within the scope of preparedness project that need to be executed in FI in the coming weeks.

On the other hand, the progress of the endorsement of the Plan of Action by Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC) is moving slower than expected, due to the work irregularities and reduction in the working capacity in KRI that are a result of the COVID-19 precautionary measures put in place by the authorities.

During the coming months, the preparedness projective activities, which are part of the Plan of Action developed to overcome the gaps and challenges faced by humanitarian community in KRI, will be prioritized in order to tackle the areas that signifyingly impact the humanitarian response, such as the import permit process. The prioritization of activities will be conducted by both the project sponsor in KRI (JCC) and WFP (pending the approval of the Ministry of Interior of WFP's request and the endorsement of the Plan of Action).

In the final stage of the logistics preparedness project, the focus will be shifted on consolidating both KRI and FI's Plans of Action into a common national plan and bring the project sponsors (JCC in the north and JCMC in the central and south) together to address the overlapping issues and harmonize the work flow.

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## Coordination

- During Logistics Working Group meetings, the logistics preparedness project activities and objectives were introduced. The aim of introducing the project to the UN agencies is to increase the involvement and participation of the agencies during the capacity mapping and gap analysis phases of the project and eventually during the implementation of the Plan of Action. Recently, the project was introduced to UNDP representative at JCMC office.
- The building of a collaborative relationship with the National Operations Centre (NOC) is one of the objectives of the preparedness project. The NOC is considered as the main actor responsible for granting access letter for humanitarian

relief movements in the central and south regions. Having the NOC authority onboard and involved in the preparedness project would be a great asset to establish a communication channel between the humanitarian community and authority towards facilitating the process of obtaining access letter and sharing of information.

- Regular follow up calls with interlocutors from JCC on the progress of the endorsement process of the Action Plan are conducted. Furthermore, a constant follow-up and monitoring of the border status and new instructions and procedures that have an impact on the national supply chain in general and import permit process in particular were maintained.
- Follow up with the JCC focal point on the progress of the approval of the Ministry of Interior on the WFP official request for JCC participation and involvement in the preparedness project activities in the north.
- Action Plan was developed during Logistics Gap Analysis workshop took place in Erbil in February. The workshop report can be found [here](#) or upon demand.

## Information management

- Two official letters were sent to JCMC and JCC (after incorporating the feedback and comments from both the management of the Country Office from one side and Information Management and Support Desk from the other) requesting active participation in the preparedness project activities.
- The translation of the plan of action to Kurdish was done and the plan was reshared with JCC. This process helps to facilitate the approval of Kurdistan Regional Government.
- The [Iraq Logistics Preparedness Webpage](#) is officially launched and running. This website will be a platform where the Logistics Preparedness Project updates and reports will be published, as well as a source of information for the stakeholders, and a platform to exchange information.

## Contacts

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