

Protection Monitoring

Iraq Protection Platform

October 2023

Protection Monitoring under the Protection Platform

- With the deactivation of the Iraq Protection Cluster in December 2022 and the launch of the **Iraq Protection Platform** in 2023, it was decided to design a new protection monitoring exercise that would **strengthen the evidence base** for the advocacy of the Platform.
- **Three tools (household assessment, key informant interviews and focus group discussions)** were developed by a core group in late 2022-early 2023. The tools cover a **broad range of protection issues** and are designed to cover **many different population groups**, including refugees, IDPs, IDP returnees, migrants, stateless persons and vulnerable non-displaced Iraqis.
- The first round of data collection began in April 2023, covering both April and May. Subsequent rounds have lasted one month. The results are summarised and analysed in a **monthly report** and subsequent **recommendations** are made.

Data Collection Actors and Coverage

Actors who have contributed to data collection thus far are **Danish Refugee Council (DRC)**, **Heartland Alliance International (HAI)**, **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, **International Rescue Committee (IRC)**, **INTERMEDIAS**, **Justice Centre (JC)**, **Legal Clinics Network (LCN)**, **Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)**, **Shareteah Humanitarian Organization (SHO)** and **Terre des Hommes Italy (TDH-Italy)**.

Protection monitoring data has been collected from **all governorates**, with most data collected in **Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa** and **Sulymaniyah**.

Key Findings from Protection Monitoring

- **Safety and Security:** Most respondents report general feelings of safety and security, but refugees in Sulymaniyah reported much higher rates of safety and security than other groups. IDPs and IDP returnees in some areas of Salah Al-Din and Ninewa noted fears of **detention and arrest** in relation to **lack of documentation**, and Syrian refugees and asylum seekers Baghdad, Kirkuk, Najaf and Wassit noted similar concerns.
- **Access to Legal Services:** Across all population groups, **high transportation costs/lack of transportation** was the primary challenge reported in related to accessing legal services, as well as **high costs of legal services**, a lack of necessary documentation, and a general lack of information on access to legal services. These issues were less prevalent among respondents in Sulymaniyah. **Discrimination** against particular population groups was raised by IDP and IDP returnees, with focus group participants in Ninewa and Salah Al-Din relaying that this is a particular issue for families with **perceived affiliation**

Key Findings from Protection Monitoring

- **Documentation:** Lack of core civil documentation is a challenge faced by IDPs, IDP returnees and vulnerable non-displaced Iraqis alike, particularly those in Federal Iraq. Barriers to applying for documentation include perceptions of **prohibitively high costs** as well as **lack of transportation**. Many refugees and asylum-seekers also reported **difficulties accessing basic rights and services** due to a lack of PC-MOI registration, particularly in Ninewa. Most refugees and asylum seekers in Sulymaniyah reported access to registration and residency documents.
- **Socioeconomic Insecurity: Unemployment** was widely reported across all populations and in all geographic areas, and Syrian refugees in particular reported experiencing **discrimination in the labour market**. The consequences of socio-economic insecurity are widespread, including contributing to **children leaving school**.

Key Findings from Protection Monitoring

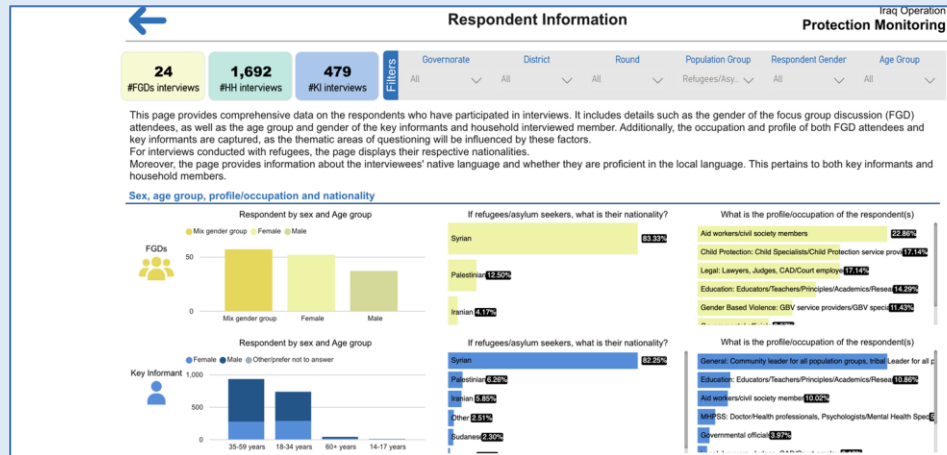
- **Climate Change:** The effects of **climate change and disasters** are also impacting the **socio-economic situation** for IDPs and IDP returnees in the Centre-South governorates, especially for communities historically dependent on **agricultural livelihoods**.
- **Child Protection:** The number of school-aged IDP, IDP returnee and vulnerable non-displaced Iraqi children who are not enrolled in school is of significant concern. Additionally, **girl children** are more likely to be out of school than **boy children**. Focus group discussion participants noted that **child labour** and **child marriage** were two of the most prevalent reasons for children dropping out of the education system, and that these practices were seen as economically motivated.

Protection Monitoring Data Collection Tools

[Household Assessment Tool](#)

[Key Informant Tool](#)

[Focus Group Discussion Tool](#)



Recommendations Follow-Up Matrix

| 1 | Recommendation | The Month it was made | Organizational Focal Point | Updates (Please specify which organization) |
|---|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 2 | Adjust the piloted monitoring tool, based on limitations of the questionnaire identified during the pilot phase. | June | | |
| 3 | Access to legal services is an essential part of the ability to exercise fundamental rights. This includes ensuring the right to low-cost or free-of-charge legal aid services , such as those provided for in Iraqi criminal law and those proposed in the draft Legal Aid Bill currently with the Iraqi parliament. Additionally, measures should be taken to ensure that persons with family members who are perceived to be affiliated with Da'esh should not be excluded or discriminated against in trying to access legal support. Legal awareness initiatives informing refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs on their rights in situations of displacement is also clear must be strengthening to more effectively address needs. Data from this round of protection monitoring indicate that these services are particularly crucial in Kirkuk and Salah Al-Din. | June & July | | |
| 4 | While significant progress has been made on facilitating access to core civil documentation for those who are legally entitled to it. There is strong momentum within the Government of Iraq to overcome the remaining obstacles and stakeholders should continue to reflect upon ways to streamline and expedite the process of acquiring civil documentation. | June & July | | |
| 5 | Efforts to increase awareness on and access to social safety net programmes for refugees, IDPs and vulnerable non-displaced Iraqis are crucial to overcoming socio-economic instability. Investing in the livelihoods of the country's most vulnerable populations will contribute to the overall economic resilience. | June & July | | |
| 6 | All children, regardless of gender, location, or displacement status, should have access to quality education . There is an obvious gender disparity in access to education in Iraq amongst vulnerable population groups. Access to education is closely linked with socioeconomic mobility and removing children from the education system decreases their ability to pursue livelihoods. | June & July | | |
| 7 | Harmful practices such as child labour and child marriage must be discontinued immediately. Iraq is a signatory of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and laws against child marriage and child labour are enshrined in national laws, but more work is needed to ensure the development and implementation of comprehensive child protection laws across the country to protect the rights of all children in Iraq. | June & July | | |
| 8 | The effects of climate change and sudden and slow-onset environmental disasters in Iraq continue to raise alarm. Efforts should be made to support the Government of Iraq to take actions to address climate change with a rights-based approach , in line with its national and international human rights obligations. | June & July | | |
| 9 | Refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and other vulnerable persons are uniquely susceptible to the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters. Thus, there is an imperative need to include refugees, asylum-seekers and other displaced persons in national and regional climate change action and mitigation strategies , taking into account the specific vulnerabilities of these populations. | June & July | | |
| | It is imperative that persons who wish to apply for asylum in Iraq have access to registration . This can be enhanced | | | |

Matrix can be accessed [here](#).