

# Iraq Protection Platform: Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the Protection Platform?

At the beginning of 2022, the Humanitarian Country Team in Iraq decided that five years after the conclusion of the large-scale military operations against Da'esh, it was time to move away from traditional humanitarian assistance for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and to move towards development-oriented interventions benefitting all persons in Iraq. In line with this transition, all Clusters in Iraq were deactivated at the end of 2022.

In view of the deactivation of the Protection Cluster, the Protection Platform was created with two central aims: (1) to ensure the centrality of protection in the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in Iraq; and (2) to serve as a forum for unified, high-level protection-oriented advocacy interventions at the national level.

The Protection Platform's aim is not to replace the deactivated Protection Cluster. The GBV and CP subclusters have transitions to separate working groups.

The protection working groups at governorate level continue to meet and elevate protection issues to the Protection Platform as relevant, similarly to the ABCs.

## Which communities does the Protection Platform work with and for?

Unlike the Protection Cluster, which only covered IDPs and host communities, the Protection Platform works on behalf of a wide range of communities in Iraq, including refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants, IDPs, IDP returnees, stateless persons, persons at risk of statelessness, minorities, female headed households, and vulnerable Iraqis.

## Who are the members of the Protection Platform?

The Protection Platform is co-chaired by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Members of the Protection Platform include UN Agencies, international and national NGOs. Protection Platform plenary meetings, organized on bi-monthly basis, are open to all protection actors and donors interested in protection work in Iraq. A core group, including representatives from UNHCR, OHCHR, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, Danish Refugee Council and the Kurdistan Organization for Human Rights Watch, meets on monthly basis.

## What are the Protection Platform's priorities for 2023?

Based on a survey administered to Protection Platform members in early 2023, three priority areas for engagement were identified:

1. Complex Cases and Civil Documentation
2. Support for Ethnic and Religious Minority Communities
3. Climate Change and Human Rights

The work of the Protection Platform also involves a new comprehensive protection monitoring system, which seeks to flag emerging protection and human rights issues and their trends.

**For more information on the Protection Platform, please contact Valerie Svobodova ([svobodov@unhcr.org](mailto:svobodov@unhcr.org)) and Annette Lyth ([annette.lyth@un.org](mailto:annette.lyth@un.org))**