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Report No: 8

## Risks and Recovery in Iraq

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### Section One: General overview on Risks and Recovery between 1 August – 29 August 2019

Response to Risks						
Risks	/	Governorates	Basra	Diyala	Wassit	Baghdad
Technical		Pollution-radiation	X			
		Pollution-wastes		X	X	
		Infrastructure collapses-bridges				X
		Access to Basic Services-Roads				X

Readiness and Risk Reduction			
Threats	/	Governorates	Wassit
Technical Risks-Infrastructure Collapses-Dams			X
Earthquakes, Remnants of War, Fires			X

Recovery and Reconstruction	
As pointed to each governorate	

### Section Two: Response to Risks

#### Technical Risks-Severe Pollution-Radiation

**Description of the Problem:** On 31 July, the representative of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center in Basra Governorate stated that the Center for Radiation Protection identified in its database 19 polluted sites in the governorate, mostly containing military and civilian objects that had been exposed to bombing in the wars of 1991 and 2003. It added that 17 sites have been cleared and released, and that work is underway to remove radioactive contamination in the remaining sites.

#### The Need and Support Identified by the JCMC :

- Providing adequate financial allocations and specialized mechanisms to support the work of removal and disinfection of radioactive contamination.

#### Recommendation:

- Intensifying protection and monitoring around contaminated sites to ensure the protection of citizens from exposure to diseases caused by radiation.
- Providing adequate resources for the relevant authorities to carry out work related to the clearance of areas affected by radiation.
- Committing to the legislations governing the treatment of radioactive waste.



## **Technical Risks-Pollution**

### **Diyala Governorate**

**Description of the Problem:** On 5 August, JCMC monitored information confirmed by the representative of the Center in Diyala Governorate that fires broke out in the landfill areas in Kanaan district of Baquba, which has an estimated population of 45,944 according to 2017 statistics. Toxicity associated with fires, as caused by smoke clouds and toxic gases, affected the population in the areas surrounding landfills and caused damage to the environment and other sectors. It should be noted that the National Development Plan 2018-2022 indicated that 61% of the population of Diyala Governorate do not have access to waste collection service.

### **Procedures reported by the JCMC**

- Extinguishing fires at the previously-mentioned landfill sites.
- The governorate has purchased specialized machines for the landfill sites, as well as conducting a study to transfer the landfill site to Hamrin area in a site 60 Km away from the city of Baquba.

### **Wassit Governorate:**

**Description of the Problem:** The amount of waste incineration in the landfill sites in the city of Kut, located on the road to Kut-Badra, in addition to high clouds of smoke and toxic gases impact health and the environment. The representative of the JCMC paid a field visit to the site and pointed out that the lack of compliance with environmental determinants and the absence of observers to prevent the entry of non-working citizens in the landfill site is a challenge. This is added to the lack of the machinery for lifting waste to the landfill sites, which leads to delays in the removal of waste from their initial locations.

### **Reasons for Frequent Incineration of Waste According to the Municipality of Kut:**

- The burning of waste by non-working citizens in the landfill sites.

### **Requirements Set by the Municipality of Kut:**

- Submitting a request to the governorate for placing a fixed police detachment to monitor the landfill sites and ensure that non-workers shall not enter the site.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation:**

- The conclusion to be inferred from the above information is the lack of commitment to the environmental determinants that should be followed in landfill sites to ensure no damage to human health and ecosystem.
- Non-recycling of wastes that should be used in the creation of financial resources, the employment of manpower, the preservation of the environment, energy generation, and other direct and indirect benefits
- JCMC recommends compliance with environmental determinants at landfill sites, as well as the modernization of treatment methods and waste recycling.
- JCMC will work on adopting a comprehensive study to find radical solutions to address the problem of landfill sites and recycling, as is the practice worldwide.



## **Technical Risks- Infrastructure Collapses- Bridges**

**Description of the Problem:** On 20 August 2019, the Representative Office of the JCMC in Baghdad reported the collapse of the pipe bridge located on the arm of the Tigris River at the entrance of Saba' Al-Bor area of Taji.

### **Reason behind the bridge collapse as reported by JCMC:**

-Constructing the bridge in a way that does not comply with the technical specifications, in addition to allowing trucks loaded with goods and heavy construction materials to pass through.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

- The information mentioned above indicates weakness in regulating the transit of vehicles on the bridge and lack of monitoring its status to ensure its suitability for service. Thus, the relevant authority must adhere strictly to the necessary technical specifications when constructing bridges to prevent collapses or waste of public funds.

## **Technical Risks: Access to Basic Services-Roads**

**Description of the problem:** The representative of the JCMC in the governorate of Wassit reported that the Directorate of Traffic in the governorate identified road cracks within the administrative borders of Al- Dubouni district, which need maintenance and treatment to avoid traffic accidents.

### **The Measures Taken by the Directorate of Roads and Bridges in Wassit- Maintenance:**

The Directorate of Roads and Bridges in Wassit will include the damages identified by the Road Traffic Directorate in the maintenance plan and will be handled after the approval of the plan and provision of financial allocation.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation:**

Sound road networks contribute to avoiding traffic accidents, improving the process of economic development and achieving many social benefits in various sectors. JCMC recommends periodic maintenance and expansion of internal and external road networks and the allocation of adequate resources

## **Technical Risks: Access to Basic Services-Clean Water**

**Description of the Activity:** Further to the presentation of the JCMC in its report in June on the information reported by the representative of the JCMC in Najaf Governorate about the growth of Ceratophyllum in Shat al-Kufa, the Ministry of Water Resources reported on 25 July that the work of clearing rivers and removing Ceratophyllum and Eichhornia increased by more than 100% this year. Work also included cleaning the areas surrounding the inlet pipes of 19 water plants as of 8 August. The ministry also pointed out that the Directorate of Water Resources in the governorate continues to monitor and treat cases of early infection with harmful plants.

The representative also stressed the importance of continuing the work of removing sediments from the rivers and the provisions of necessary machineries from Directorate of Water Resources.



## Conclusion and Recommendation

Providing the relevant authorities with information on actions undertaken to address risks, which allows the JCMC to update its risk profile as responding to risks, as well as to demonstrate a positive response. The JCMC therefore urges all institutions for which the Center reports risks in its reports, which are within its responsibility to provide it with data on the actions it carries out to address the risks identified in those reports.

## Technical Risks: Access to Basic Services-Electricity

**Description of the Activity:** Further to the correspondence conducted by the JCMC with the Ministry of Electricity regarding the repair of the electrical network in the areas of Al-Manea' and Al-'Aayn Al-Bayda complexes of Al-Shirqat in Salah al- Din Governorate, which witnessed a return from the displacement, the ministry reported that the ministry staff conducted an on-site inspection of the above areas. They identified the need to provide the materials mentioned in the table below. They also confirmed that the Ministry of Electricity is working to rehabilitate the villages according to the availability of the necessary allocations.

No.	Description of Need	Qty.
1.	250 KVA Transformer	6
2.	High voltage electricity iron poles with accessories	15
3.	Low voltage electricity iron poles	25
4.	Aluminum wire size 95 mm 2	25 km.

## Technical Risks- Fires

**Description of the Activity:** Following the June report of the JCMC on the frequency of fires in the areas surrounding the Mishraq Sulphur Plant and its impact on the plant, the Ministry of Industry reported following actions:

- Establishing a committee headed by the technical deputy and the membership of a number of general managers to investigate and then report the causes of the incident.
- Establishing a technical committee to develop a work plan to provide the requirements to avoid the potential risks of fire recurrence, through the application of safety and precautions in the storage of sulfur and foam, securing means of communication, provision of water, opening the roads for the fire engines, and removing the weeds and bush in the area around the plant.

## Recommendation:

- Providing the JCMC with the results of the investigations and recommendations stated above.
- Involving the representatives of the Ministry in the JCMC in the preparation and implementation of contingency and response plans.
- Ensuring compliance with the requirements of security and occupational safety in all laboratories.

## Laboring Unemployed People:

**Description of the Activity:** During August, JCMC representatives in Baghdad, Babylon and Diyala governorates individually reported meetings with UNOPS in the presence of the municipalities, labor, water resources and water directorates for the purpose of providing job opportunities for the



unemployed within the Cash for Work Program. The table below shows the number of beneficiaries in each governorate:

Governorate	Number of Beneficiaries
Baghdad	4,707 (30% women)
Babylon	543
Diyala	11,811

## Technical Risks- Mines

**Description of the Activity:** UNMAS reported on its clearance activities in the liberated areas for the periods shown in the table below:

period	The Cleared Area	Removal of IEDs and their components	Removal of Unexploded Ordnance	Homemade Explosives (kg)
18 - 24 July	68,732	40	3	1.17
25- 31 July	48,825	67	1	360
1 – 7 August	12,368	61	0	130

- UNMAS noted that the number of trainees in the basic courses in the management of mine action, which is organized in coordination and cooperation with the JCMC (Headquarters) and its representatives in the governorates has reached 159 trainees for the period between 4 July 2018 to 25 June 2019. The training courses were carried out at JCMC offices in Kirkuk, Baghdad, Ninewa, Najaf, and Wassit governorates.

## **Section Three: Risk Reduction and Preparedness**

### Technical Risks – Infrastructure Collapses- Dams:

**Description of the Risk:** On 19 August, the representative of the JCMC Center in Salah al- Din reported that the Governor chaired a meeting with all relevant departments to discuss the preparations and determine the procedures and activities to be implemented to strengthen the embankments of the Tigris River to face the risks of possible flooding.

It should be noted that the representative of the JCMC has prepared a contingency plan approved by the governorate on 12 June 2019, to address the floods of the Tigris River, which identified the threatened areas and the most prominent gaps and proposals to be implemented to protect the population from drowning as well as the responsibilities of each sector

### Recommendation

The JCMC recommends that all governorates that are likely to be exposed to flooding during the rainy season to take measures, prepare contingency plans, and identify gaps and address them to protect the population and maintain infrastructure and vital sectors from damage.

### Awareness-raising and capacity-building activities:

The representative of the JCMC in Wassit governorate stated that a meeting was held with local civil society organizations and several volunteer team leaders to discuss the contingency plans conducted by the representative to face potential risks. Coordination and cooperation to implement awareness



campaigns in first aid and steps to be followed in case of earthquakes and the dangers of remnants of war and fires were also discussed. The awareness campaigns will include government institutions, citizens and students in universities, schools, in addition to other religious and social events.

## Section Four: Recovery and Reconstruction

**Description of the Activity:** UNDP reported that the total number of stabilization projects in Anbar, Salah al- Din, Diyala, Ninewa and Kirkuk governorates reached 3,345; of which 2,178 projects were implemented as of 18 August 2019. The table below shows the total number of projects implemented in each governorate:

Governorate	Total Number of Projects	Number of Implemented Projects	Implementation Rate
Anbar	992	597	60%
Diyala	32	21	66%
Salah al- Din	329	174	53%
Kirkuk	122	49	40%
Ninewa	1870	1337	71%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3345</b>	<b>2178</b>	<b>65%</b>

## Section Five: Population Movement: Return and Displacement

-On 1 August 2019, the representative of the JCMC in Salah al- Din reported that 47 families returned to their areas of origin from displacement camps in the governorate, as shown in the table below:

Area of Displacement	Number of Returned Families	Area of Return
Al-Karama Refugee Camp	44	Beiji District and Al-Seniya District of Salah al- Din Governorate
Al-Alam Refugee Camp	3	Al-Hawija District of Kirkuk Governorate

-On 18 August, the representative of the JCMC in Salah al- Din reported that 759 families out of a total of 1,145 families started to return from Al-Qadisiya complex in Tikrit to their areas of origin in Shirqat, Beiji and Al-Seeniyya districts of Salah al- Din governorate, in addition to Al-Hadhar and Al-Ba'aj districts of Ninewa governorate. It should be noted that all families will return continuously to complete evacuation on 1 September 2019.

## Section 6: Executive Decisions

Risk Type	Risk Area	Recommendation	The Executing Agency
Technical-Pollution - Radiation	Basra Governorate	Report action taken considering the recommendations in the report body	Ministry of Health and Environment,
			Iraqi Radioactive Sources Regulatory Authority,
			Basra Governorate,
			Organizations and agencies concerned



# JC MC

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Technical-Pollution-Waste	Diyala Governorate (Kan'an District of Ba'quba Constituency))	Report action taken considering the recommendations in the report body	Ministry of Construction and Housing and Public Municipalities, Ministry of Health and Environment, Diyala Governorate, Organizations and agencies concerned
	Wassit Governorate (Landfill sites on the road of Kut-Badra))		
Technical - Infrastructure Collapses-Bridges	Baghdad Governorate (Saba' Al-Boor District)	Report action taken considering the recommendations in the report body	Ministry of Construction and Housing and Public Municipalities,
			Baghdad Governorate, Baghdad Municipality
Technical Risks- Access to Basic Services-Roads	Wassit Governorate (Al-Dubooni District)	Report action taken considering the recommendations in the report body	Ministry of Construction and Housing and Public Municipalities,
			Wassit Governorate
Technical Risks- Access to Basic Services-Clean Water	Najaf Governorate ((Shat Al-Kufa	Report action taken considering the recommendations in the report body	All relevant ministries,
			governorates, organizations, and agencies
Technical Risks- Fires	Ninewa Governorate (Mishraq Sulphur Plant)	Report action taken considering the recommendations in the report body	Ministry of Industry and Minerals,
			Civil Defense
Technical - Infrastructure Collapses-Dams	Salah al- Din Governorate	Report action taken considering the recommendations in the report body	Ministry of Water Sources,
			Ministry of Construction and Housing and Public Municipalities,
			All relevant governorates, organizations, and agencies



**Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center  
(JC MC)**

For more information, please contact the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center-JC MC.

Website: [jcmc.gov.iq](http://jcmc.gov.iq)

Email: [jcmccomsec@gmail.com](mailto:jcmccomsec@gmail.com)