

Terms of Reference

Iraq Durable Solutions Task Force (DSTF)

Background

Operating under the overall direction of the DSRSG/HC/RC, the Durable Solutions Task Force (DSTF) will be the main platform providing information-sharing, strategic coherence and a platform for collective action and advocacy for international engagement on durable solutions in Iraq. Its members will actively advise on the strategic direction of all related activities, to ensure that durable solutions for IDPs are prioritized by humanitarian, development, stabilization / recovery, and peacebuilding actors. The DSTF also functions to ensure close linkage and collaboration with government at all levels, and that durable solutions programming in Iraq remains principled, coherent, and well-coordinated. Specifically, the work of the DSTF is focused around the following areas: (1) information sharing; (2) strategic advice and coherence; and (3) coordination and collective action for advocacy.

The Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) established the criteria for the achievement of durable solutions, and include approaches to ensure long term safety and security; non-discrimination; adequate standard of living; access to livelihoods and essential services; access to documentation; family reunification; participation in public affairs; access to justice and effective remedies including the restoration of housing, land and property rights, at the same level as those in the return, reintegration or resettlement communities who were not displaced. The DSTF recognizes that the implementation of effective and lasting solutions requires tailoring policies and approaches that are specific to the Iraq context.

Membership, Leadership and Liaison

The Durable Solutions Task Force (DSTF) will consist of a small number of actors representing UN and NGO, as well as development, humanitarian, stabilisation / recovery and peacebuilding actors.

Members will include:

- UNDP and IOM (co leads);
- The UN Senior Advisor on Durable Solutions (Secretariat);
- NCCI;
- IRC
- DRC
- KHORW
- UNHCR;
- UNICEF
- UN-Habitat
- OCHA;
- DCO
- Donors

Upon agreement of the DSTF and in discussion with HC/RC, additional members may be added later. This may include, as required, donors, government representatives and others. NCCI will ensure that NGOs' experience and good practices are fully included in the discussion.

DSTF will support liaison with other key entities relevant to durable solutions in Iraq, including but not limited to:

- Government, especially at senior / strategic level;
- Donors, including Donors' Working Group on durable solutions; and
- Humanitarian clusters, INGOS and NNGOs, specific working groups including the Returns Working Group, the Durable Solutions Network, Technical Coordination Committee on the Return and Reintegration of Families Formerly Associated with ISIL, the UNDP-led Funding Facility for Stabilisation (FFS), and various other task forces, and entities as needed. DSTF will also ensure close liaison with the Protection Cluster including, as required, inviting the Protection Cluster Coordinators to participate in meetings, given the importance of protection in durable solutions.

The DSTF will also work closely with these groups to ensure coherence between strategic and technical levels.

Objective and Priorities

The DSTF serves to set the overall strategic direction of Durable Solutions initiatives in Iraq, encompassing humanitarian, development, stabilisation / recovery and peacebuilding activities, based on existing, new or expanded strategy documents including the recently approved strategy document produced by the Senior Advisor for Durable Solutions. It also serves as a high-level coordination platform for durable solutions in Iraq. Furthermore, DSTF, in close coordination and consultation with the HC/RC, will seek strong re-engagement with Government on the issue of durable solutions, including in the provision of technical assistance to maximize Government's leadership on this issue.

Specifically, the DSTF will:

Information sharing

- Ensure coherent sharing, inclusion and use of data to ensure a data-driven approach to durable solutions.

Strategic direction, advice and coherence

- Ensure a principled, coherent, data-driven and integrated approach to durable solutions in Iraq by bringing together humanitarian, development, and stabilisation / recovery actors; as such, DSTF serves as a bridge between humanitarian and development;
- Provide strategic guidance and oversight to specific durable solutions interventions in Iraq;
- Support decentralised government and relevant mechanisms in the development of strategies and coordination of durable solutions;
- Develop and implement a coherent and joint advocacy strategy on behalf of displaced populations in support of durable solutions;
- Where required, provide strategic guidance and approval for policies, strategies and procedures related to international engagement on durable solutions; and
- Ensure the continuing relevance of DS through supporting research or the facilitation of expert inputs including high-level missions on durable solutions.

Coordination and collective action

- Provide a platform for collective action such as implementation of pilot programmes set out in the Durable Solutions Strategy developed by the SA on DS to the HC/RC, or other specific initiatives as determined by the Task Force;
- Liaise with and coordinate closely with government to assure their leadership of durable solutions in Iraq;
- Support joint resource mobilisation efforts to support durable solutions programming in Iraq;
- Ensure appropriate support to national government mechanisms related to durable solutions, including coordination, strategy development, development and implementation of joint programmes, as well as activities supporting durable solutions. DCO and OCHA, in support of DSTF, will look more specifically into coherence between various documents such as HRP and UNDSCF, and into ensuring a dialogue between humanitarian clusters and UNDSF Priority Working Groups;
- Link with and support working groups and mechanisms supporting specific topics related to durable solutions; and
- Update the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), the UN Country Team and other groups as required.