



Durable Solutions Technical Working Group

Sustainable Livelihoods Subgroup

Terms of Reference

Background

The Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) was set up at the end of November 2020 under the leadership of the Durable Solutions Task Force (DSTF). The DSTWG is a task-oriented technical body responsible for providing guidelines, tools, frameworks and overall direction for the development and operationalisation of durable solutions plans of action (POAs) at the area-level, in locations where area-level DS groups are activated. To ensure harmonisation of approaches and adherence to best practice, area level groups, with the support and guidance of DSTWG, will lead on the development of Plans of Action (PoA) in line with objectives, frameworks and approaches set out by the DSTWG. For more information, see ToRs for the DSTWG and Area level groups [here](#). The DSTWG has developed an Operational and Strategic Framework, outlining specific objectives towards achievement of Durable Solutions. In support of the DSTWG, as agreed by members of the DSTWG, task-oriented groups will be established when the development of tools and guidelines requires focused discussions and specific technical expertise and knowledge - particularly with the view to expand upon the specific objectives of the Iraq Durable Solutions Operational Framework.

Mandate

Under **Specific Objective 3 of the Durable Solutions Operational and Strategy Framework, displacement-affected populations have access to sustainable livelihoods and income**. Within the DSTWG, the Sustainable Livelihoods subgroup aims to coordinate and strengthen supply-side, demand-side and environmental interventions to increase access and resilience of income-generating opportunities. Through its focus on financial and economic inclusion, the Sustainable Livelihoods Subgroup will be guided by the Iraq Durable Solutions Strategy and Operational Framework, IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (April 2010), Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998), and the Iraq Socioeconomic Response Plan, The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and other relevant legislative mandates in federal Iraq and KRI.

The Subgroup is created for an initial period of 1 year, with potential extension if required, granted under the review of the DSTWG.

Objectives

The Sustainable Livelihoods Subgroup aims to assist the DSTWG, the Government of Iraq, and humanitarian and development actors to ensure that Iraqis have access to long-term income generating opportunities, while exploring avenues of increasing economic resilience against internal or external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and water scarcity, and conflict. Following formation, the subgroup is to define what “sustainability” means in terms of livelihoods in Iraq, with specific objectives of the subgroup as follows:



1. **Provide technical guidance to the DSTWG and area-based coordination groups (ABCs), humanitarian, and development actors to address and resolve economic and financial inclusion issues, and develop strategies related to durable solutions.** This includes focusing on linkages between households supported with Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to longer term, sustainable, income generating opportunities to build their livelihoods and achieve durable solutions.
2. Technical support for better targeting of the most vulnerable displacement-affected communities, namely cash for work and job placement interventions under the HRP. In particular, the proposed sub-group will assist partners to make linkages between HRP and how durable solutions looks at vulnerabilities.
3. **Provide a forum on best practices, lessons learned and capacity building for partners across the livelihoods spectrum,** including humanitarian, stabilisation, recovery, peacebuilding and development actors. This forum would be technical in nature, with some components of national mapping for ABC areas, and potentially non-ABC areas.
4. **Act as a coordination body for livelihood activities,** with thematic priorities including the following:
 - i. Strengthening government capacity in employment pathways and job placement
 - ii. Improving coordinated for cash for work activities
 - iii. Demand-side interventions targeting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)
5. Advocate and support coordination amongst ABCs in terms of allocation of durable solutions livelihoods funding, to ensure that Plans of Action are implemented in line with their objectives.

Functions and Ambition of the Sustainable Livelihoods Subgroup

As outlined in the Iraq Durable Solutions Strategy and Operational Framework established under Strategic Objective 3, the Sustainable Livelihoods subgroup will support the affected populations to have access to livelihoods and income generating opportunities. More specifically, the subgroup shall:

1. Identify and engage with livelihood partners by exploring the existing portfolio and capacity of partners who are better placed to contribute, expertise, sufficient knowledge and/or resources relevant to livelihoods opportunities, economic and financial inclusion.
2. Support the development of the Plans of Action (PoA) by providing guidance notes on the Sustainable Livelihoods situation in prioritized areas/locations. This includes, for example, linking households assisted with MPCA to income generating opportunities, require assistance for immediate livelihoods creation through cash for work, identifying the number of SMEs in need of training and rehabilitation works, support business registration and formalisation, legal framework and regulation of economic activities, tracking climate-change related displacement, supporting food and livelihoods security and resilience of agricultural sector in respective governorates.
3. Provide advice and guidance to the DSTWG, ABCs and livelihoods partners acting under the durable solutions umbrella, through the development of tools, materials or



- practical guidelines with particular focus on the durable solutions concerns and objectives.
4. The Subgroup is also expected to provide strategic guidance for the achievement of durable solutions by:
 - a. Linking households/individuals within the Cash Working Group (CWG), Emergency Livelihoods Cluster (ELC), and Cash and Livelihoods Consortium in Iraq (CLCI) and databases to sustainable livelihoods interventions and support the graduation approach
 - b. Adapting tools and guidelines from the ELC and the CWG to a durable solutions context, including guidance on more localised interventions or application at the ABC level
 - c. In collaboration with ILO, provide guidance on how to improve the economic environment for businesses and people joining the workforce, to promote sustainability of their income-generating opportunities and ultimately foster economic resilience
 5. Collaborate with the Priority Working Group 2 (PWG2) and other relevant actors, such as the Social Protection Sector Coordination Committee (SPCC), to complement policy work related to durable solutions from a livelihoods, graduation, and economic inclusion perspective.
 6. In the longer term, the group has ambitions to include the following themes in its scope of work:
 - a. Inter-ABC and Subgroup coordination, for referral [pathways to self-reliance](#)
 - b. Explore a Whole of Iraq approach by adapting durable solutions tools and methodology to support climate-change related displacement, water scarcity, agriculture, and their impact on livelihoods
 - c. Creating stronger linkages between livelihoods and social cohesion/peace, particularly in terms of the relationship between economic inclusion and preventing violent extremism, in coordination with other DSTWG subgroups
 - d. Setup early warning systems using data collected from subgroup members and the ABCs, in response to sporadic conflict resulting in further displacement and need for livelihoods interventions

Subgroup Chair and Co-Chair Responsibilities

The Sustainable Livelihoods Subgroup Coordinator (Chair and/or Co-Chair) is accountable to the DSTWG who in turn reports regularly to the DSTF, with the aim of ensuring a more effective and coordinated response capacity vis-à-vis IDPs, returnees and other displacement-affected populations.

Specific tasks of the Subgroup Chair and Co-Chair include:

- a. Convening, organising and chairing the Subgroup meetings;
- b. Strategy development and work planning;
- c. Identification and engagement of Livelihoods and Agriculture partners;
- d. Coordination of activities implemented under the Subgroup;
- e. Drafting minutes of meetings;
- f. Delivering guidance materials, technical guidelines and other deliverables as agreed on this ToR to the DSTWG for validation;



- g. Ensuring that tools, guidance, and information is accessible to all subgroup beneficiaries.

Sustainable Livelihoods Subgroup Architecture

The subgroup chair and co-chairs will be identified through circulation of the ToR. The Subgroup will have three key levels:

1. **The Chair and Co-chair**, which report to the DSTWG and act as link between the durable solutions architecture and livelihoods actors in Iraq
2. **Subgroup members**: which are to be limited to 15 members (subject to change depending on level of commitment and profile of applicants, the subgroup can adopt new members on Ad-hoc basis if required).
3. **Subgroup beneficiaries**: which include all livelihoods/economic inclusion actors in Iraq ranging from the private sector to UN and government agencies, and international and national actors. Beneficiaries may have access to, request assistance from, and contribute to discussions in the subgroup, but do not attend subgroup meetings nor lead discussions. Beneficiaries are hence privy to information, tools, guidance, and can advocate for discussions to take place amongst members but cannot prioritise the agenda nor overall structure of the subgroup.

The selection process for subgroup chairs will be coordinated by the interim vetting committee. Upon selection, the chair and co-chair will lead the setup of subgroup members in coordination with the interim vetting committee (the partners who have led the creation of the subgroup and drafting of the ToR (CLCI, ELC, CWG, ILO, and DSTWG Co-chair)). The Chairs of the subgroup may be a UN Agency/international or national NGO/government entity with expertise in livelihoods or economic inclusion in Iraq.

Membership will be coordinated through a call for applications. Non-NGO membership will be coordinated by the vetting committee. NGO membership in the subgroup will be led by the NCCI to ensure an inclusive and fair process.

Sustainable Livelihoods Focal Points and Task Force

Focal Points may be nominated by the Subgroup to support the Chair and the Co-chair during their absence, when/or additional support is required and also assist them in the coordination role.

Based on requirements and the needs to address Sustainable Livelihoods concerns efficiently and effectively, the Subgroup can establish, under the guidance of the DSTWG, Task Forces to address key prioritised issues or develop technical guidance materials.

Participation and Membership in the Sustainable Livelihoods Subgroup

The Subgroup is a focused technical subgroup open to technical experts from UN agencies, international organisations, national and international NGOs or entities, particularly humanitarian, stabilisation/early recovery, development actors and durable solutions actors involved in ensuring economic and financial inclusion by displaced and other conflict affected persons in Iraq, and private sector representatives. The subgroup should not have more than 15 active member organisations.



Membership quotas should not exceed: 4 UN agencies, 2 private sector actors, 3 government of Iraq entities, 2 INGOs, 2 NNGOs, 2 donors. Noting that the quota applies to entities themselves, rather than individual members, and this is only an arbitrary limit aiming to ensure the subgroup is fully representative of relevant actors within Iraq. Should the Subgroup decide to include more members, or other members decide to leave the subgroup, expressions of interest will be circulated for membership. Ascension into the Sustainable Livelihoods Subgroup will be put to a simple-majority vote.

Any actor wishing to have access to the subgroup resources can become a beneficiary. There are no limits and resources can be easily accessed in a transparent and inclusive manner. Ascension of beneficiaries to membership is feasible at the discretion of members, and based on commitment and contribution of beneficiaries to the objectives of the subgroup. Beneficiaries can express an interest or will be invited based on specific technical expertise in durable solutions, in particular members with expertise and skills in Sustainable Livelihoods and Prevention of Violent Extremism programmes and activities, assessments, analysis, reporting and tool development, with a specific interest or focus on durable solutions.

Members are expected to be active participants, contributing to the completion of outlined tasks and ensuring consistency in attendance.

Membership in the Subgroup requires:

- a. Regular information-sharing, and participation in regular Subgroup meetings.
- b. Organisations contribute to sustainable, environmentally conscious, responsive, and holistic activities to address economic and financial inclusion to promote sustainable livelihoods and therefore, durable solutions.
- c. Sharing responsibility for Subgroup activities and objectives.
- d. Respect and adhere to agreed principles, policies, priorities, and standards.
- e. Proactive and continued engagement with developing the subgroup workplan.

Frequency of Meetings

The Subgroup meets on a regular (monthly) basis and/or (ad hoc) as requested by the Chair and Co-chair for an initial period of 12 months. Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Chair/Co-Chair.

Terms of Reference of the Subgroup

The Terms of Reference may be reviewed under the authority of the DSTWG.