

November 2022

BACKGROUND & RE-CAP: THE IRAQ DURABLE SOLUTIONS ARCHITECTURE

The Iraq Durable Solutions architecture is spearheaded by the Durable Solutions Task Force (DSTF), a senior steering committee consisting of UN agencies, donor representatives and NGOs, providing overall strategic direction of the mechanism and engaging in high-level discussions with the national government. To facilitate the varying levels of coordination required to achieve DS outcomes, the DSTF is supported by two additional national-level groups, the Returns Working Group (RWG) and the Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG). The RWG, with open membership, has been brought under the DS umbrella, offering a wider platform for information exchange and updates on DS interventions and plans. The DSTWG is a smaller operational & technical platform to design durable solutions tools, programmes and approaches, acting as the main vehicle for steering the operationalization of DS plans in Iraq. The group has been expanded to 30 seats, occupied by representatives from stakeholders including UN, LNGOs, INGOs, working groups, clusters and other entities, as an outcome of a nomination and voting process.

Localized DS planning and implementation is guided by the DSTWG through 8 area-based coordination (ABC) Groups. Groups are steered by focal points, assigned from operational actors in the area, and include any partner who are active in supporting DS interventions for a defined area. The ABCs link closely with the government at local level, via new and existing committees, in recognition of the leading role of authorities.

One and a half years after its establishment, the DS Mechanism in Iraq has in the beginning of 2022: (1) an established architecture (see above), (2) eight area-based coordination mechanisms (ABCs) coordinating more than 1,500 projects implemented by 59 partners worth approximately 500 million USD, (3) eight area-based plans of action covering the eight ABC targeted areas, (4) a DS Strategic and Operational Framework, (5) an analysis of needs and current response covering around 600 villages/towns across Iraq, (6) a strategy and guidelines on how to conduct coordination under the ABCs, (7) a specific Priority Working Group under the UNSDCF including a funding mechanism.



SINJAR

Sinjar POA – English

Sinjar POA – Arabic

MOSUL

Mosul POA – English

Mosul POA – Arabic

HAWIGA

Hawija POA – English

Hawija POA – Arabic

EAST ANBAR

(in design process)

BA'AJ

Ba'aj POA – English

Ba'aj POA – Arabic

SALAH AL-DIN

(in design process)

BI-ANNUAL REVIEW: JANUARY – AUGUST 2022

January – April 2022

- DSTF approved the DSTWG work plan for 2022 which outlines the timeline for activities including POA development and review, the development of tools and guidelines, sub-group reviews, and the monitoring and reporting of activities.
- The Housing and HLP sub-group presented 3 guidance notes. The [first guidance](#) note focused on HLP rights, including rights to adequate housing, property, land, as well as security of tenure. The [second note](#) was on secondary occupation and mediation, focusing on when and how a secondary occupation happens, coping mechanisms, mediation, alternative dispute resolutions, etc. The [third guidance](#) note provided information on the compensation scheme in for property in Iraq, to familiarize partners with the process of submitting compensation claims.
- ABC Focal Points, DSO, local DSTWG, and National DSTWG took part in a one-day retreat, where the ABC Coordination in Practice mechanism was presented for ABC groups to start conducting localized 'deep-dives' into their respective priority locations. Other topics discussed during this retreat included drafting a joint-ABC workplan, and brainstorming future challenges and opportunities.



ABC Focal Point/DSTWG Support Retreat (Erbil)

May – August 2022

- **DSTWG TORs** and **ABC TORs** were endorsed by the DSTF on 5 April
- DSTWG conducted bilateral discussions with the Iraq IASC, 8 clusters and 3 subclusters to support the humanitarian transition process. Members unanimously agreed that DSTWG co-chairs and support group as well as IOM to prepare for review and input by the DSTWG members.
- DSTWG invited to present on the cluster discussions and proposals at the June HCT-Donor Retreat
- **ABC focal points** completed a **survey** to identify the challenges face. The survey showed that human resources and funding are the main challenges (time allocated and actual time spent and lack of funding for activities contributing to DS for NGOs). To increase the level of support for ABC focal points, following endorsement by DSTF, National DSTWG released a **call for applications for a 3rd focal point position** in all ABC groups which had 2 focal points. Each ABC group now has 3 focal points, with a blend of NGOs and UN agencies leading the groups.
- Following the recommendations of the HCT and endorsement of the DSTF ABCs **opened for new members**. The call for new members received a high response, with the number of **ABC members increased, totalling the overall implementing partners under the ABCs from 59 to 71**. For example, ABC Mosul increased from 18 to 43 members, ABC Sinjar increased from 16 to 28 members, and ABC East Anbar increased from 13 to 24 members. The opening of the ABC groups also notably **increased the NGO representation** across the ABC groups, with the addition of many local NGOs due to their local expertise to be shared with the ABC groups.
- ABC Groups have finalized ABC Coordination in Practice (deep-dive) documents for the following locations, highlighting community-based sectoral needs, current response as well as gaps as a basis for future joint planning: Tal Banat and Tal Qasab (ABC Sinjar), Al-Garma (ABC E Anbar), Risala/Sakar Complexes (ABC Ba’aj), Sinsil (ABC Diyala), Al Siniya (ABC SAD), Al-Murra (Hawija ABC). All finalized deep-dive documents can be accessed via [this link](#), then navigating to the relevant ABC group.



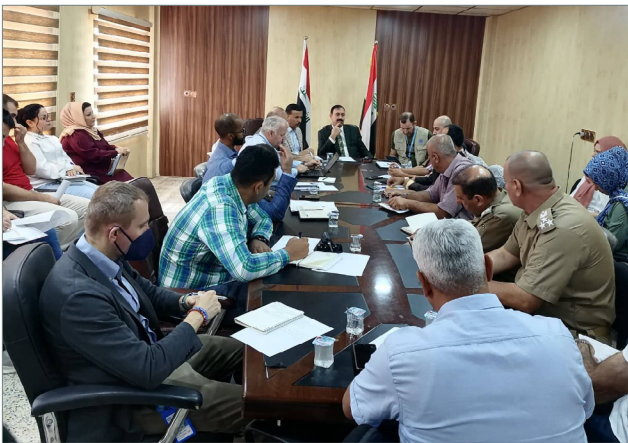
<p>Sinjar ABC: Tel Qasab & Tal Banat May 2022 English link Arabic link</p>	<p>Ba’aj ABC: Sakar, Resala and Hamdaniya Aug 2022 English link Arabic link</p>	<p>Salah al-Din ABC: Baiji, Al-Siniya July 2022 English link Arabic link</p>	<p>East Anbar ABC: Al Garma, Al-Khairat and Al Sijir Aug 2022 English link Arabic link</p>	<p>East Anbar ABC: Al-Saqlawiyah, Hay Jbeal, and Hay Al Shuhadaa September 2022 English link Arabic link</p>
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September – November 2022

- The National Protection Cluster and DSTWG organized a workshop for ABC focal points and protection working group coordinators on the centrality of protection in working towards durable solutions. The workshop presented protection-related strategic guidance, advice, and objectives to ensure they're followed and taken into consideration by ABC members. Following the workshop, the NPC and DSTWG will conduct a similar workshop with all ABC members and local authorities in December.
- DSTWG members convened for a strategic planning retreat in Erbil to review the progress and set DSTWG priorities for 2023 and to develop a workplan.
- An MoMD Return Grant Update was released, providing a summary of the grants disbursed in 2022 in comparison

with 2021, 2020, and 2019. The update also includes a summary of the meetings of "The Supreme Committee for the Implementation of the National Plan". The full update can be accessed via this [link](#).

- DSTWG established a Sustainable Livelihoods sub-group, to provide technical guidance for sustainable livelihoods programming and will be a focused sub-group, open to technical experts from UN agencies, international organizations, national/international NGOs, the private sector, and government actors. The English ToR can be accessed here in [English](#), [Arabic](#), and [Kurdish](#).
- ABC groups finalized deep-dives for the following locations: [Al Rummaneh](#) (West Anbar); [Al-Fallujah](#) (East Anbar); [Al-Murra](#) (Kirkuk).



ABC Kirkuk Debris Meeting with Mayor



Joint West Anbar/East Anbar ABC Meeting (Ramadi)

RECENTLY PUBLISHED REPORTS/RESOURCES

- [Access to Durable Solutions](#): This report analyzes how the pandemic affected IDP households' abilities to achieve durable solutions.
- [A Climate of Fragility - Household Profiling in the South of Iraq: Basra, Thi-Qar, and Missan](#): This report provides an in-depth examination of key findings and trends regarding a range of issues including environment degradation, climate-induced migration, and economic insecurity.
- [Areas of No Return 126](#) – This report outlines locations that have witnessed no return, covering the months of April, May, and June 2022.
- [DTM Return Index: Round 16](#) – These findings measure the severity of conditions in locations of return, with data collection taking place during the months of July, August, and September.
- [DTM Master List: Report 127](#) – These findings provide displacement and returns information, with data for this round collected from 1 July to 30 September 2022.
- [Impact of Climate Change and Water Scarcity on Returns and Durable Solutions](#): This report provides a thematic summary of ReDS findings for Al-Atheem, Al-Rayhana, Markaz Hawiga, Al-Amerli, and Zummar sub-districts.
- [Life in the Margins: Re-Examining the Needs of Paperless People in Post-Conflict Iraq](#) - This report explores the challenges faced by displacement-affected populations who are missing civil documentation, and how these have evolved in the recent past.
- [Livelihoods and Economic Security](#): This report provides a rounded understanding of the livelihood and economic challenges that families face – both while in displacement, and while reintegrating into their areas of origin.
- [Obstacles to Returnee Reintegration in Iraq: Safety and Security and Social Relations](#): This report provides a snapshot of the key reintegration challenges that returnees face related to safety, security, and social relations, and highlights areas where these challenges are most prevalent.
- [ReDS Factsheets \(Markaz Al-Kaim, Markaz Hatra, Al-Atheem, Al-Saadiya, Markaz Al-Hawija, Zummar, Al-Amerli, Al-Rayhana\)](#) – These factsheets provide a localized overview of the perceptions of displaced and host communities on a variety of conditions linked to the (re)integration of IDPs and returnees.
- [REACH Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment \(MCNA\) X](#): This survey assesses the sectoral needs, vulnerabilities, and intentions of randomly selected households in order to inform future objectives of DS actors.
- [Twice Displaced: The Unmet Needs of Iraq's Children in Informal Settlements](#) – This report assesses key vulnerabilities related to the education, protection, and wellbeing of secondarily displaced children in informal settlements in Iraq.

PHOTOS



ABC Diyala Meeting with Authorities



ABC Mosul Meeting



ABC Kirkuk Debris Community Discussion



ABC Kirkuk Debris Community Discussion

Upcoming Meetings		
RWG	Monthly	Every last Tuesday of the month (open)
DSTF	Monthly	(DSTF members)
DSTWG	Monthly	Every second Wednesday of the month (DSTWG members)
ABC	Monthly	Varied depending on ABC (ABC members)