



## Terms of Reference Durable Solutions Area-Level Coordination (ABC)

### Background

The Durable Solutions Task Force (DSTF) was established in April 2020 – under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator – as a dedicated platform for working towards solutions to displacement in Iraq. The platform brings together humanitarian, development, stabilization and peacebuilding actors, building and drawing upon existing mechanisms already in place, based on the principle that the combined support of all actors is necessary to achieve durable solutions (DS). A dedicated architecture for DS, starting with the Task Force, aims to bring these different actors together to achieve a coordinated, and integrated approach to solving displacement. To facilitate the various levels of coordination required to achieve DS outcomes, the DSTF is supported by two additional national-level groups, namely the Returns Working Group (RWG), and the newly established Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG). The pre-existing RWG, with open membership, has been brought under the DS architecture, offering a wide platform for information exchange and updates on DS interventions and plans. The DSTWG is a smaller platform to operationalise DS plans and develop related technical guidance; its focus is the design and implementation of programmes and approaches aimed at supporting durable solutions to internal displacement in Iraq.

In keeping with the principle that the resolution of internal displacement is the responsibility of Government, and in support of that objective, DSTWG will focus on the development of operational frameworks and strategies; develop technical guidance for specific sectors, barriers and issues; support DSTF in liaison with the government; and create and guide programmes and planning aimed at supporting durable solutions, principally through area-level planning, implementation and coordination. These TORs focus on the final point, area-level planning, implementation and coordination.

### Area-Level Planning, Implementation and Coordination

The overarching objective of area-level planning, implementation and coordination is to facilitate, support and guide localised, government-led implementation of the national durable solutions strategy and operational framework. Specifically, this objective will be accomplished through the creation and implementation of area-level Durable Solutions Plans of Action (POAs), established in priority areas<sup>1</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> 'Areas' generally refer to districts but may include other locations beyond one particular district, based on specific displacement patterns or barriers to solutions as well as socio-economic, demographic, and other factors, forming a



driven by actors who are committed to supporting a localised DS response and building on guidance produced by DSTWG at national level. POAs will be created, implemented and coordinated by area-level groups.

Area-level groups will be led by focal point organisations, chosen from operational actors in the area with support from DSTWG. While the objective of these groups is standard across areas, it is expected that the composition of the groups will vary based on local context and stakeholders. These groups will build upon and create linkages with existing working groups and technical bodies at the local level, to draw upon available expertise and ensure complementarity. Groups will link closely with the government at governorate and local levels, building on existing mechanisms wherever possible,<sup>2</sup> in recognition of the primary role of authorities in establishing the necessary conditions to achieve DS.

In general, area-level groups and DSTWG will collaborate and regularly share information, with area-level groups providing updates on progress, challenges, good practices, lessons learned and other issues to DSTWG. Similarly, DSTWG will support the functioning of area-level groups through the provision of technical guidance, tools and frameworks. DSTWG leads and members will also endeavour to support area-level focal point organisations with liaison with government, organisation of events, support in service mapping and drafting of plans and documents. DSTWG will also facilitate regular information exchange between area-level groups.

### **Focal Points and Membership**

Area-level groups will be composed of approximately five member organisations, of which two will be designated focal points, one from the humanitarian sector and one from development, stabilisation or peacebuilding, and representing a variety of viewpoints from humanitarian, stabilisation, development and peacebuilding. In general, they will have:

- Programming supporting durable solutions that can contribute to area-level planning and implementation;
- A good understanding of the location, usually with a geographical presence in the area, a strong existing network of local stakeholders, including local authorities; and
- The capacity and skills to coordinate and lead the creation and implementation of the DS plans, jointly with local authorities, and with support from DSTWG.

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logical geographic unit for the purposes of the establishment of area-level plans. Specific areas to be covered, as well as what constitutes an 'area' in each individual case, will be determined in consultation with government, with input from DSTWG and the area-level group concerned, on a case-by-case basis.

<sup>2</sup> There are many existing working groups, task forces and committees at governorate, district or local level. This includes, for example, Governorate Return Committees (GRCs), local return committees and numerous other groups. Area-level plans will seek close linkages with existing mechanisms.



Focal points and member organisations will be selected on a volunteer basis among DSTWG members or other organisations who are able to guide coordination of POAs in the designated area, and liaise and coordinate with the broader set of organisations operating in the areas. Ongoing support and guidance will be provided by DSTWG.

In addition to leadership in development of area-level POAs, focal point organisations will also play a key role in identifying and involving other stakeholders in the planning and implementation process, including ensuring that the activities and viewpoints of organisations intending to contribute to the POAs are included in the plans. As such, focal point organisations should, at minimum, ensure presence at relevant planning and coordination meetings at governorate and area level. This will ensure linkages with existing coordination mechanisms relevant to DS, avoiding duplication, as well as enable opportunities to expand collaboration, engage additional partners with relevant expertise and ensure that plans are consultative of the broader group of organisations implementing DS activities in the area.

## Objectives

Under the guidance of the DSTWG, and in line with DS implementation guidelines,<sup>3</sup> area-level groups and their focal point organisations will be responsible for a series of objectives related to outreach as well planning, implementation and monitoring of DS POAs at area level. While several of the items below are time intensive and complex, DSTWG intends to provide support to area-level groups as needed.

### Outreach

1. Engage and coordinate with governorate and local authorities relevant to the development and implementation of DS POAs, with support from DSTWG;
2. Identify and coordinate with key stakeholders who should be engaged in DS POAs among UN agencies, national and international non-governmental, civil society and community-based organisations and private sector, as well as existing working groups, coordination platforms and other mechanisms relevant to DS in the area;
3. Support the identification and mapping of actors and their activities (humanitarian, stabilisation, development, peacebuilding) at the Governorate, district, sub-district, locality level whichever is the most relevant (inclusive of UN agencies, Government, INGOs, NGOs, private sector not members of the ALG but relevant to the DS approach). Mapping of actors will in all cases avoid duplication and build upon existing information wherever possible, including existing service mapping and other mechanisms of clusters and other working groups; and
4. Convene regular meetings<sup>4</sup> of member organisations and local authorities as required for planning, implementation and monitoring of DS activities at the area level. Separately, and

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<sup>3</sup> Guidance and support will be provided by DSTWG, supplemented by global tools, guidelines and good practices, including, for example, the DS handbook on [Durable Solutions in Practice](#).

<sup>4</sup> Meeting frequency should generally be monthly, noting that specific areas may require more or less frequent, as well as ad hoc, meetings.



wherever possible through existing mechanisms, regularly meet and update the broader set of organisations implementing DS activities in the area.

### Planning

5. Lead the organisation of workshops, roundtables and other events with government counterparts and other key partners for the purposes of developing POAs, with support from DSTWG;
6. Define, jointly with identified local authority and government counterparts, priority geographic locations, sectors, population groups and other planning elements related to DS POAs;
7. With the support of DSTWG, and as required and where feasible, coordinate capacity building and sensitisation to local authorities and other key stakeholders involved in DS planning to ensure common understanding of DS objectives and principles, during initial stages of planning/ kick-off meetings with government; and
8. Support joint approaches to efficiently consult and seek feedback from affected groups to ensure inclusion of perspectives in planning and promote community-based interventions; where feasible, support accountability mechanisms.

### Implementation

9. Working closely with existing structures, facilitate exchange of information on needs, gaps and ongoing/planned activities, and facilitate the identification of and coordination with potential partners to fill gaps, where feasible and with the support of DSTWG;
10. Building on existing mechanisms wherever possible, and with the support of DSTWG such as tools, guidance and frameworks, maintain referral mechanisms and pathways, including referral pathways available to beneficiaries at area level;
11. Ensure regularly updated response and service mapping such that the POA remains updated and relevant;
12. In line with DSTWG guidance, provide regular updates on the progress of implementation of the POA to local authorities in the area and governorate concerned, and to DSTWG at national level;
13. Working through existing mechanisms wherever possible, facilitate across the wider group of interested organisations information exchange and sharing of information related to challenges in implementation, technical work areas, good practices, local dynamics and other issues as relevant; identify opportunities for joint approaches and collaboration between organisations and with local authorities; and
14. Support area-level advocacy around key issues and barriers to durable solutions and, where required, raising key issues to DSTWG.

### Monitoring

15. Monitor implementation and progress of the PoAs, using framework and tools developed with guidance from DSTWG.