

Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – Summary of Meeting

Meeting 5 – 8th March 2021

Co-chairs: Bradley Mellicker, IOM, Zulfiye Kazim IOM, Dennis Schleppi, UNDP, Ismael Frioud, DS advisor for RC/HC office

Attendees: IOM, OCHA, National Protection Cluster (NPC), Shelter/HLP cluster, ICRC, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, CCI, ICCG, UNMAS, UN-Habitat, Oxfam, Mercy Corps, REACH Initiative, Al Tadhama Iraqi League for Youth, Secours Islamique France, FAO

Overview and Agenda

1. Review of Action Points from Jan 20th
2. Key Updates
3. Overview of progress to date with ABC set-up
4. Update from sub technical groups
5. Discussion on work plan and priorities

Action Points

1. Launch of housing/HLP sub working group – chairs to reach out to UN-Habitat and Shelter/HLP cluster reps
2. As above for social cohesion – chairs to coordinate with UNDP and TCC to clarify next steps
3. Review of potential support that could be provided by DSTWG members to ABCs - by next meeting
4. Members to share any suggestions on priorities or tasks for DSTWG, as we adapt and finalise the workplan

Review of Action Points from Jan 20th

- Will share updated framework for inputs – within 1 week – **complete, now being put forward to DSTF**
- Area-based groups – will share information so partners can reach out if interested in becoming focal points, including suggestions for additional areas – **complete**
- Details to be shared of next facilitated movement technical group meeting – **complete**
- Kick-off of monitoring group – **launched, more updates during this meeting**
- Template for plans of action to be prepared by co-chairs for member input – **was shared and comments received**

Key Updates

- National Plan and updates from national government + KRG – National plan not yet endorsed, now with MOMD which is updating information, mainstreaming gender components. The plan will be presented to COMSEC by MOMD but the data is not yet clear. There have been a series of meetings with Kurdistan Regional Government authorities regarding potential future support to durable solutions for IDPs in KRI. While the meetings have been productive and there are several clear avenues for enhanced collaboration between international partners and KRG, IDPs in KRI often face challenging obstacles requiring thoughtful, careful and well-coordinated approaches.
- Jeddah/AAF - Registration has begun for new round of returns led by IOM in both camps; as expected, many cases have complex profiles and will need specialized assistance. A Jeddah task force has been set up by the government, comprised of IOM, UNHCR, MOMD, with meetings are taking place in Ninewa as well as at the Baghdad level as required. MOMD established a separate “Return Committee”, composed of MOMD and several governors’ offices in affected governorates, to more closely examine issues facing returnees, including all those who returned since returns began in 2014-15 and in particular those who returned recently following camp closures.
- Framework – Shared with DSTF Chairs – deadline of 18th March provided for final inputs
- United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) – There is increasing discussion around the creation of a fifth pillar within the framework, specifically to focus on durable solutions. Details of the pillar as well as how it will interact with DSTF / DSTWG are being discussed.

- Meeting and briefings – MASC, Anbar GCM, HCT, ICCG, RWG - as part of efforts to increase general awareness of the work the ABC effort and DSTWG more broadly.
- Call scheduled with RC/HC on Wednesday with ABC Focal Points – interested in understanding any challenges, potential support that could be provided by leadership.

Overview of Progress to Date with ABC

- Reminder that ABC groups have set tasks and overall objective of developing, implementing and monitoring DS plans of action, entailing several concrete steps such as stakeholder mapping and engagement, context analysis, outreach and consultations with government, non-governmental actors and community
- Recognising that organisations are volunteers, representing wider interest, support provided was outlined. Including:
 - National DSTWG – separated into groups so at least one national chair/support attends to support with steering and guiding, as well as drafting of POAs
 - Area-level DSTWG – providing technical support, including context analysis, government liaison, organization and delivery of roundtables
 - Area-level DSO – Providing secretariat support, including coordinating meetings, minutes, reporting, translation of materials, and additional support as required with government liaison, organization of roundtables
- Progress to date was outlined – groups received inductions, several guidelines have been developed to assist work and all groups have completed first or second meetings, conducted initial context analysis and stakeholder mapping. A debrief was held with groups on March 7th to understand any challenges, areas for additional support etc. Main outcomes was the need to further reiterate processes as still early stages and highlighted the importance of continued support for the groups on all levels, recognizing they are not dedicated coordinators and the support capacity appears to be critical.
- Key points shared as answer to FAQs:
 - Groups are not general coordination bodies, members and focal points are volunteering to support the development of these plans of action and have set processes and guidelines to follow to ensure adherence to DS standards and principles
 - Not necessary to be a member of the group to contribute – groups have been kept intentionally small to be conducive to active participation and planning, as well as the avoid duplication with many other groups and platforms – instead, the focal points and members have been tasked with ensuring inputs and contributions from a wider set of actors, hence active stakeholder mapping and engagement plan to be developed in first/second meetings.
 - Local authority engagement will be tailored, it is not necessary, nor necessarily most appropriate given preferences for modes of communication and forms of engagement with authorities. Instead, the ABC is a vehicle to organize, but the planning will not begin and end with the group, it is there to ensure coherence in the proposals put forward for discussion with local authorities. The first task of the ABC groups is to identify a key government counterpart to brief, outline expectations to, and seek support to work hand-in-hand to develop and implement the plan, including jointly identifying additional government counterparts for this purpose.
 - ABCs do not mark the beginning of DS – this is a mechanism to organize and articulate our objectives better, as well as to ensure efficiencies and focused efforts towards the DS goal. Many activities are on-going and do contribute to DS, this effort ensures it is done so in an effective way and we organize those activities in a way that they are more able to contribute to this objective
 - For this reason, we should not simply relabel our work as DS, individual activities do not necessarily contribute to DS and must be integrated with other forms of programming to achieve this goal
 - Finally, DS will not solve all issues, there has been increasing attention to DS and this is positive but expectations of this specific, transitional, objective should be realistic, DS will not solve all problems.

Discussion – including questions posed by chairs and response/feedback by members:

- How best to review membership of groups – has been high level of interest and there have been some challenges with some members being less engaged?
 - Overall, given the importance of having continuity and given investment in inductions, briefings and set up, useful to maintain members at least in initial planning phase. Then question becomes how important it will be after initial set up phase, when it is more a matter of monitoring the progress. However, if there are issues with specific members and their commitment, should be raised with organisations and addressed on case by case basis
- Any ways members of DSTWG can support POAs and backstopping? Particularly, for example, reviewing through perspective of specific technical expertise, e.g. ensuring effective mine action components with support from UNMAS, or reviewing proposed shelter approaches with HLP/Shelter representatives of DSTWG
 - Members willing to support, useful to have more details on specific ways they can do this i.e. specific requests for support based on technical expertise.
 - Suggestion to explore a task force that could review plans of action, comprised of members of the group
 - Suggestion that POAs can be presented to DSTWG when ready for feedback/comments
 - Chairs will explore options above and feedback by next meeting
- Suggested or proposed ways to engage with non-governmental stakeholders, other working groups etc?
 - Agreed that best to tailor this by location, was noted by protection that there is willingness to give space during meetings and likely that other platforms will do the same, especially as many members of the group are active in local level coordination. However, whether this will be one large meeting or multiple consultations will depend on the context and number of actors
- Any suggestion to add more groups? There have been suggestions for Jeddah, Mosul?
 - Some members felt that it would not be wise, at this early stage, to add more groups to the list – still should get these existing groups set up and going, especially as it's clear there is a need for a high level of support at the field and national level
 - Was noted that the Jeddah Task force mentioned during the key updates could be sufficient for Jeddah, i.e. let's not create ABC groups unless we see a need/added value. However, was also noted that there areas of origin of residents that are not captured in existing ABC groups, such as Mosul.
 - Nevertheless, overall, consensus that it will be challenging to set up a new group now, can review in 2 months after initial groups finalise their plans

Update on Sub Technical Groups

Monitoring and Analysis Sub Group

- Being co-chaired by REACH and IOM
- Initial kick-off meeting last month, brainstorming on approaches and priorities
- Main, linked, priorities are to a) develop a framework and set of indicators for assessing progress of achievement towards DS b) identifying most effective way to map DS response/gaps
- Draft ToR prepared, to be finalised when overall approach and tasks defined
- Members shared their previous work conducted on indicators – currently compiled and being reviewed to propose a framework
- Presentation planned with REDSS and DSP to get insights and lessons learned

Facilitated Movement

- Members: IOM, NPC, CCCM
- Established in December to facilitate the consultative review of the DS-Facilitated Voluntary Movement methodology and tools.

- Main tasks are to review the draft tool kit, develop similar mechanisms for informal settlements and non-camp settings, provide technical advisory to organisations supporting components of workflow.

Discussion – question posed on additional subgroups/purpose of groups:

- Groups not intended to duplicate existing bodies and mostly timebound/reframing current guidelines to tailor to DS lens – e.g. a big interest in a housing and HLP group has been expressed as these are questions coming from the field/ABCs- what does it mean to have a DS shelter response? Is it the same as what we are already doing? May just require a short period to reframe guidelines/outline relevance and applicability
- Additionally, was highlighted by UNDP DSTWG co-chair that social cohesion is raised repeatedly and an area where there is a perceived lack of guidance or understanding on how to tailor response for DS objectives.
- Was noted that perhaps it's useful to look at the main challenges for IDPs, often shelter and livelihoods are outlined in data so these may be areas to explore
- Another point made that we should be very cautious not to overstretch and have too many groups at once, could combine social protection with livelihoods more generally.
- Finally, consensus to move forward with two groups for now, with the possibility for the creation of others later. Social cohesion (specific objective 6), with an emphasis on DS in the context of families with a perceived affiliation, and Housing / HLP (SO2). UN-habitat and Shelter/HLP have agreed to take forward Housing/HLP sub group while UNDP volunteered to lead social cohesion, along with TCC
- Groups to be launched with further guidance from DSTWG chairs soon.

Work Plan and Priorities

- Ran out of time for full discussion. Was noted to group that this can be discussed during next meeting but interested in hearing from group on key priorities and tasks the DSTWG could focus on as we finalise the work plan. To be shared by members after meeting.