

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

Meeting 6 – 22nd April 2021

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Overview and Agenda

1. Review of Action Points from Mar 5th
2. Key Updates
3. Jeddah
4. Overview of progress to date with ABC set-up
5. Update from sub technical groups

Action Points

1. National DSTWG to share information on UNSCDF with members. Updates will take place at DSTF level but relevant for DSTWG alike.
2. M&A sub group to arrange meeting on new framework and outline linkages to CF
3. Facilitated movements will share tool kit for final inputs
4. Final operational framework to be shared with group once finalized by DSTWG.
5. Partners interested in participating in discussions around social cohesion/peacebuilding sub group work stream to reach out to ensure TCC includes in invites and discussions.

Review of Action Points from Mar 5th

- Launch of housing/HLP sub working group – chairs have reached out to UN-Habitat and Shelter/HLP cluster reps, TOR is currently being finalized.
- Launch of Social Cohesion sub working group – discussions with TCC/UNDP have taken place, no Social Cohesion sub working group will be launched under DSTWG umbrella, TCC will be utilized as existing technical forum, background note on social cohesion for DSTWG currently drafted by TCC, while ensuring avenue for other members of DSTWG to participate
- Review of potential support that could be provided by DSTWG members to ABCs – decided that this would take place primarily through sub groups, of which DSTWG members are either leading or members.
- Members to share any suggestions on priorities or tasks for DSTWG, as we adapt and finalize the workplan – suggestions received

Key Updates

- Operational and Strategic Framework on DS – has been extended to donor groups after presentation at last DSTF meeting. Donor comments largely process-focused (government ownership, lack of government membership in ABCs, civil society engagement). Feedback currently incorporated and will hopefully be finalized soon.
- National Plan & New Committee – National Plan has been and endorsed and circulated in Arabic – English version pending. MOMD to present document at next RWG meeting on 27th April 2021. A request for an English translation of the document has been put forward. The Government has further set-up a new committee linked to National Plan headed by MOMD comprised of 16 government entities. Objective of committee will be in part to implement NP. Funding for body remains unclear and is currently discussed at higher level. Indications that MoP are initiating a fund specifically for the national plan.
- United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) – Durable Solutions will be integrated as a fifth Strategic Priority (SP) into UNSDCF as per government request. Implementation of UNSDCF taking place through Joint Work Plans (JWPs) which are currently revised in parallel for all SPs including related outputs, outcomes, indicators and activities (revision process, which was taking place for the first four SPs in any case - due

to Covid-19 implications, political reason and development of important frameworks (SERF, OP on DS). Priority Working Group (PWG) 5 (co-chaired by UNDP/IOM, synonymous with DSTF) to add activities for DS JWP. Criteria to define an activity as a specific DS activity for the UNSDCF (as opposed to social cohesion or livelihoods activity) have been developed by National DSTWG in close cooperation with DSTWG Monitoring & Analysis Sub-WG (whose work on defining DS monitoring approach have to be inter-linked to this): 1.) Standalone criteria: activity contributes to ABCs + activity contributes to DS for refugees), 2.) Conditional criteria: Supports one of 8 SP of OP + either activity in area of high displacement/return AND/OR activity targeting IDPs AND/OR contains upstream elements AND/OR supports coordination, information and research on DS. Once completed, UNSDCF SP on DS will formalize a lot of the work conducted via DSTF/DSTWG/at ABC level. Outcomes, outputs, indicated to be determined by DSTWG over upcoming weeks while template will simultaneously be circulated with PWG 5 agencies for activities. Work is under way with M&A sub group to ensure inputs, although window to do so/deadline as part of cooperation framework work flow is very limited. This work does not supersede the work of the M&A sub group which is more encompassing, moves beyond guidelines for development only and will be more detailed for operational purposes/guidance to ABCs.

Discussion – Q & A

- Was the UNSDCF not already signed-off? Will the Government of Iraq have to reindorse the whole CF after revision process?
 - There is a difference between signed-off and endorsed, UNSDCF was never officially signed-off by GoI. Covid-19 implications strongly necessitated this review process. UNSDCF will be signed-off in June after revision process has been completed i.e. a previous version was signed, new revised version will be signed off again (revisions largely requests by the government).
- Similar processes have been conducted in other countries since UNSDCF mechanism is global. Will lessons be drawn from other similar processes in other countries, and why the tight timeline? And how will civil society be engaged?
 - Tight timeline is also not something that was envisioned by DSTWG and M&A Sub-group. CF will be published on 1st of July 2021. NGOs are to be engaged in the process, however exact involvement TBD.
- TCC and UNICEF/RCO to discuss bilaterally how TCC roadmap can be linked to UNSDCF reporting structure (linkages with SP 1)
- Action Point: National DSTWG will share updates on CF with DSTWG members.

Jeddah – request made for update ahead of the meeting

Please reach out to Islam and Valentina for further information

- Category 2 interventions in Jeddah 5 continuing under IOM leadership, 86 households signed up for recent returns.
- Majority of families that left Jeddah camp have settled in Ninewa, SAD and Kirkuk, many facing livelihoods-related challenges. IOM are actively seeking partners for support in areas of origin, please reach out.
- IOM is closely coordinating with MOMD to identify way forward to help identify and facilitate a local solution for HHs with social cohesion barriers to return utilizing existing community and tribal mechanisms.
- 700+ HHs fall under facilitated return program, 386 of which were families with social cohesion barriers to return (Category 2). Tribal Figures identification was conducted to facilitate dialogue, address issues of acceptance.

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 (PoA), entailing several concrete steps such as stakeholder mapping and engagement, context analysis, outreach and consultations with government, non-governmental actors and community. All 7 ABC Groups have finalized initial scoping exercise and identified local stakeholders, currently definition of outreach phase and



preparation for roundtables/stakeholder consultations and analyzing results of initial scoping exercise as a basis for outreach and drafting PoA. National DSTWG has supported with constant debriefs/development of guidelines.

- Insights of initial ABC meetings have shown that the formulation of areas has been crucial (Kirkuk redefined to Hawija, close coordination between Sinjar/Ba'aj + Anbar ABCs), some groups need to strengthen guidance on certain technical elements within ACBs (Social Cohesion/HLP in particular) and outreach will be key to capture full capacity in the area in addition to initial ABC scoping exercise.
- Key government meetings with local governors/governors assistants have been delayed by Ramadan/Covid-related movement restrictions but the majority of authorities have displayed high degree of enthusiasm and cooperation towards DS cause.
- Most roundtables will take place after Ramadan according to local authority preference, outreach definition/consultations with non-governmental stakeholders to commence prior. Outreach crucial due to strong interest and frequent requests from partners to contribute to DS both at National and ABC level.
- ABC FPs have been advised to engage in wider area-based virtual stakeholder consultations due to increased efficiency over bilateral consultations. Broader consultations can be enhanced by a variety of smaller briefings and small-scale in-person meetings in Arabic with local partners.

Update on Sub Technical Groups

Monitoring and Analysis Sub-Group

- Being co-chaired by REACH and IOM
- 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
- Many of prior updates on UNSDCF linked to work of M & A Subgroup, next week discussions will take place on how to align processes
- Developing broader analysis framework with a compendium of DS outcomes which need to be aligned to SO from OP Framework
- Presentation with REDSS and DSP to be used as lessons learned to define activities for broader analysis framework. Meeting to take place ASAP to update members of M&A group.

HLP/Shelter Sub-Group

- Being co-chaired by UN-Habitat and Shelter/HLP Cluster
- Initial TOR has been drafted, currently final rounds of revision. TOR hopefully to be circulated by the end of this week for final feedback
- In line with TOR, development of guidelines, initiation of a strategy and definition of a work plan
- Afterwards partners will be consulted for an expansion of membership

Social Cohesion Sub-Group

- Meeting between TCC/UNDP and DSTWG has taken place Mid-March to define scope of Sub-Group. Broad consensus at National DSTWG Level on need to articulate what social cohesion response in durable solutions could look like. At ABC level, agreement that social cohesion and peacebuilding dimensions of localized DS planning were least understood
- No specific sub-group on social cohesion will be launched, work will be completed through TCC. Furthermore, DSTWG currently drafting background note for National DSTWG/ABC articulating how social cohesion programming can contribute to DS outcomes.
- TCC can support the review of plans of action from a social cohesion lens and to indicate social cohesion actors that can be approached in respective governorates



- Will be important for members of DSTWG, who are not part of TCC, to contribute. Was noted by UNDP, co-chair of TCC, that the guidance note will be shared with the DSTWG and those interested can express an interest and will be invited to join discussions as relevant.

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.
- Tool kit has been adapted with inputs from UNHCR,NPC, CCCM and final version will be shared with group for red line/top line inputs before publication.

NO AOB