Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – Summary of Meeting 20 on 6th July, 2022

Co-chairs: Precillar Moyo
Members: UNDP, IOM, ICRC, GIZ, Mercy Corps, OCHA, SEDO, UNHCR, NCCI

Overview and Agenda

- Action Points from June
- General DSTWG Update (Monitoring Framework endorsement, DSTWG Livelihoods subgroup, ABC update)
- DS Discussion (Transition – HCT-Donor Retreat)
- NCCI – NGO survey & FGD findings
- DTM – Locations of No Return report findings
- A.O.B.

Action Points from June 2022

- DSTWG prepared 3-pager transition paper and presented it at HCT June 14th (done)
- DSTWG shared final notes of bilateral meetings with clusters with DSTWG members (done)

General DSTWG Update

Monitoring Framework Endorsement

- Colleagues were given 2 weeks to submit comments/amendments, so this meeting would be used to endorse the framework
- M&A sub-group: Anticipate to have the reporting guidelines which accompany the framework ready by the end of July, but requested confirmation for the framework from the DSTWG
- After being put forward for the consideration of DSTWG members during the meeting, members endorsed the framework.

Decision: The Monitoring Framework is endorsed

Proposal: DSTWG sub-group Livelihoods
Rationale

- Discussions with colleagues from the CLCI, cash working group surrounding the establishment of a livelihoods sub-group, to offer more DS-specific guidance and tools for sustainable livelihoods, guidance on targeting for DS livelihoods activites
- The sub-group would provide a forum for livelihood actors on best practices and lessons learned

Remarks, Discussions and Q&A
Mercy Corps: This would be a good way of cohesively transitioning into the new context.
ICRC: Trying to move forward from MPCA towards durable solutions, especially through the durable returns program. This would be positive step.
OCHA: Who has requested this? Why was it requested? Who will lead this? What would the specific tasks be and link to PWG2?
DSTWG:
Membership: Discussions have been held between CWG, CLCI, the Emergency Livelihoods cluster, and other NGOs. It is during these discussions that the need for the sub-group was raised by these participants.
*Rationale and tasks:*As explained in the slides (i) development of technical guidelines and tools for sustainable livelihoods building on work that has been done by Emergency livelihoods cluster, the cash working group and the CLCI (ii) Provide a forum for UN agencies and NGOs working across the humanitarian, stabilization, recovery and peacebuilding spectrum working on livelihoods and social protection programs.

Link to PWG2: Partners involved in the discussions and who also participate in PWG2 indicated that PWG2 has not developed guidance or tools that speak the specific DS needs identified by the partners, while this sub-group would focus on providing these guidelines for durable solutions programming for livelihoods. PWG2 is only open to UN agencies which limits the participation of NGOs. We have reached out to PWG2 colleagues and we are awaiting a discussion on potential collaboration and linkages.

Leadership: CLCI have put their hand up to lead, but other actors who work on livelihoods programming will have an opportunity to indicate their interest in participating and co-leading with the CLCI.

OCHA: Suggested that the proposal goes to DSTF

DSTWG: Explained that according to the DSTWG TOR, the creation of sub-groups is the responsibility of the DSTWG who is responsible for establishing and reviewing sub-group TORs. The proposal can be mentioned to the DSTF but this is not required.

UNDP: Was the creation of the sub-group a request from PWG2? If the sub-group is established, it needs to be clear who it came from and what the expectations for the group are. Agreed that this should be discussed with DSTF

DSTWG: It will tentatively be noted that there is recognition of a need for such a sub-group and support for it, the link with PWG2 can be discussed at the next DSTWG meeting.

ABC Plans of Action

- All plans of action have been drafted, while the POAs of Sinjar, Mosul, and Hawija have been translated and designed in English and Arabic. The Sinjar POA is available on the Iraq Durable Solutions [website](), and has been endorsed by the authorities. The Mosul and Hawija are awaiting authority endorsement.
- The rest of the POAs are in different stages of the editing, design, and translation process.
- The plans are set to be revised on a yearly basis, with the details of the first revision process to be shared.

ABC Deep-Dives

- ABCs meet on a monthly basis, choose one location identified as a priority location for collective response (response or funding gaps are identified, action mapped out ie partner able to respond, advocacy with government or DSTWG, donors).
- The tool provides localized data for partners which allows them to see where they can support by filling the outstanding gaps highlighted in the deep-dives
- The outcome document of the latest Sinjar deep-dive, focusing on Tal Banat and Tal Qasab, can be found [here]()
- Ongoing deep-dives in other ABC groups include: Al-Garma (ABC East Anbar), Sakar, Resala, and Hamdaniyah (ABC Ba'aj), Al-Sagra (ABC West Anbar), Sinsil villages (ABC Diyala), Al Murra (ABC Hawija)

Remarks, Discussions and Q&A

NCCI: Are the deep-dives only for locations that have been identified, or could this be used to identify new locations to be integrated into the plans of action?

DSTWG: The deep-dives are mainly based on the priority locations that have been outlined in the POAs, but since the POAs are being updated regularly, there may be new locations with needs that can be tackled. But for now, the priority is to address the location which have been prioritized in the POAs.

DSTWG: Deep-dive documents can be circulated with DSTWG members after they're finalized since some agencies may be able to support with some of the gaps identified.

ABC Focal Points and Membership Update

- Membership in ABC groups has been open for applications since April, and many ABC groups have significantly increased in number. Especially the Mosul ABC group, which has increased from 18

members to 43 members, and Sinjar which increased from 16 to 28 members, making them the two groups with the highest number of members.
- A good number of NGOs and UN agencies have joined the ABC groups during this period
- As discussed in the last DSTWG meeting, following some of the challenges faced by the ABC focal points related to resignations, capacity constraints, a call for applications was sent out to ABC members in West Anbar, Kirkuk, Ba'aj, Diyala, and Salah al-Din for the appointment of additional focal points.
- An initial analysis of the applications was conducted by the DSTWG chairs and support, the following tentative selections have been made and will be recommended to the DSTF for their endorsement at the July meeting:
    - UNHCR (West Anbar); UNHCR and IRC (Kirkuk); Action Against Hunger (Ba'aj); Save the Children (Diyala); IRC (Salah al-Din)

DS Discussion

Transition – Brief on Outcome of HCT & Donor Retreat
- Presented on discussions with the clusters, challenges that exist between DS goals and humanitarian goals and how they can be reconciled, challenges with government engagement, flexibility within the DS structure
- **Key recommendations**:
- Encouraging a stronger link between sectors and DS
- Issue of funding was raised regarding ABC focal points, due to mismatch between demands and time available
- Next Steps:
    - Inclusion of Cluster FPs into the ABC membership
    - Continued advocacy with DSTF for dedicated and funded ABC focal point positions/technical support at the DSTWG level such as IM support
    - Consolidation of meetings into one nexus coordination mechanism (ICCG, GCM, ABCs) at the district level and the governorate level by the end of 2022
- Outstanding issues: ABCs in KRI and Funding for NGOs

Remarks, Discussions and Q&A
OCHA: Health cluster has amended its approach, as it was considering a handover to DS as discussions with the government weren't moving as fast in terms of their takeover, but this has been amended and now the focus will be transitioning to the government and this applies for the whole humanitarian transition.
OCHA: **On the issue of coordination meetings**: he question now becomes how we can ensure more streamlined nexus coordination at sub-national level. ICCG and clusters will phase out by the end of the year, but at sub-national level coordination will still be needed so what will this look like without the clusters and OCHA? It was decided that the aim will be to have one coordination mechanism at governorate-level that merges the GCM and ICCG and some ABCs. Similarly, districts which have both GCM and ABCs will also be merged.

DSTWG: One of the main principles in the Operational Framework is, government leadership, if the health cluster is ready to hand over coordination and services to government and does not need to hand over any coordination to the DS coordination we support this. We are a nexus structure our goal is supporting durable solutions and as highlighted during the cluster discussions we welcome and encourage government leadership and stand ready to support the transition in whatever way is needed and serves our objectives.

Presentation by NCCI: NCCI Partner Surveys and FGDs

Background:
- Surveys and FGDs took place between January and March 2022

- Unclear future/potential phasing out of humanitarian response
- Need to ensure collective NGO position on the future of the aid response and inform next steps in this space
- Understand the coordination needs of NGOs involved and/or interested in the DS and development space

Survey Findings:
- 95% of respondents stated that humanitarian funding reductions impacted their ability to respond to humanitarian needs
- Concerns were raised around continued gaps and needs in locations where NGOs had to phase out due to lack of funding
- Main challenges regarding government handover: Insufficient financial resources, insufficient human resources, and a lack of willingness to take over some of the responsibilities'
- Main barriers to participation: Financial power dynamics, insufficient time and/or space to provide inputs or feedback

Survey Findings: NNGO Gaps and Challenges
- 79% stated that reduced humanitarian funding and an increased focus on longer-term and development support impacted their access to funding
- Biggest obstacles impeding the work of NGOs: Limited access to direct funding, limited access to core funding or partnerships

Key FGD takeaways
- Lack of coordination between levels of government/DNGO and other ministries regarding their roles, before phasing out the clusters
- Over-estimation of government capacity to take over
- Mischaracterization of the Iraq context as a post-conflict context
- More nuanced approach needed to define resilience/vulnerability

FGD Takeaways: NNGO Gaps and Challenges
- Funding: Limited opportunities; different experiences working with donors
- Government handover: Limited NGO influence on policy and planning despite importance of collective messaging
- Presence of too many coordination groups

Recommendations by Partners
- Need for a more coordinated government engagement as NGOs, and through the UN
- More streamlines/integrated coordination approach required
- Clear integration of protection considerations across planning
- Active involement and consultation of local actors in strategic decision making and programme design

Remarks, Discussions and Q&A

DSTWG: In line with the previous discussion, how can the integration of governorate-level meetings and maintain the area-based approach and ensure local participation? For example, if meetings in Ninewa were held at the governorate-level, what would that mean for a local partner operating in Sinjar or Ba'aj?
OCHA: It was decided that at the governorate-level, where there is more than one humanitarian coordination mechanism, those will be merged into one and eventually into the ABCs. Where there are several coordination

mechanisms at the sub-governorate level, those will be merged as well but at the sub-governorate level. Therefore, this wouldn't change what's currently in place and is being done to avoid duplication.

DSTWG: In areas where there is no ABC but there is a local GCM, such as Telafar, would the GCM continue under OCHA despite their phasing out?

OCHA: Nothing is set in stone, and the whole structure needs to be revised at the field level. Where there is a need for a local coordination mechanism to remain, they would remain. Where there are multiple coordination mechanisms in place, they would be merged. For example, there are some informal settlement working groups in Anbar which will need to remain. This is a process which will continue until the end of the year, so discussions are needed between humanitarian and DS actors to ensure a smooth merging of coordination forums and maintaining those which are needed.

NCCI: ABC members and actors working at the local level should be consulted in this discussion, as they would know the differences and nuances between the districts. Different districts shouldn't be treated as having similar contexts and similar issues to other districts within the governorate.

Presentation by DTM: Locations of No Return

Locations of no return
- Locations of no return are locations that have recorded no returns, or where all returnees have re-displaced.
- As of March 2022, there are 284 locations of no return across 7 governorates
- Just under half of the locations of no return are in Ninewa, while others include Khanaqin and Makhmur
- A concentration of locations of no return is in Ba'aj where there is extensive housing destruction, the south of Makhmur due to security incidents and UXOs, and Khanaqin where insecurity and blocked returns black a large role
- In Mosul, Sinjar, Ba'aj, Telafar, Hawija, and Al-Musayab, the high numbers of locations of no return and the large number of displaced population show that locations of no return are a key factor in blocking remaining returns to those locations

Locations with blocked returns
- In 113 locations, KIs reported that in 113 locations, displaced families originally from the location are prevented from returning by the community, local authoiries, or security forces
- In 60 locations, all previous residents are prevented from returning. This is most common in Tuz, Al-Musayab and Mosul
- In 49 locations in Diyala, some tribal or ethno-religious groups are prevented from returning

Security concerns
- Security concerns were reported in 230 locations of no return
- Attacks by ISIL were the most prevalent concern, in 195 locations, most commonly in Hatra (44), Khanaqin (34), and Makhmur (29)
- Checkpoints controlled by armed groups were also identified as a security concern in 40 locations, most commonly in Al-Musayab, Babylon governorate, and Debes and Daquq in Kirkuk
- Unexploded ordnance and mines were a prevalent security concern in Makhmur district

Key reasons for no return
- Residential destruction
  - Identified in 130 locations

- o   Most common in Hatra, Khanaqin, Ba'aj, and Makhmur
- Poor security situation
  - o   Identified in 128 locations
  - o   Most common in Makhmur, Hatra, and Tuz
- Lack of services
  - o   Identified in 109 locations
  - o   Most common in Hatra, Ba'aj, and all locations of no return in Kirkuk
- Blocked returns
  - o   Identified in 42 locations
  - o   Most common in Al-Hamdaniya, Telafar, Al-Musayab, and Baiji
- Drought
  - o   Identified in 20 locations
  - o   Most common in Hatra and Ba'aj
- Unexploded ordnance
  - o   Identified in 18 locations
  - o   Most common in Al-Ryad, Markaz Daquq, Mosul, Ba'aj, and Al-Muqdadiya
- Tribal and ethno-religious tensions
  - o   Identified in 16 locations
  - o   Most common in seven locations in Al-Amerli (Tuz)

AOB

- Last DSTG for Signe, she will be replaced by Monique Maani who will represent OCHA and the ICCG.
- DSTWG meetings to take place on the second Wednesday of every month

Action Points

- Outcomes of HCT retreat, ABC FP selection, livelihoods sub-group to be followed up at the next DSTWG meeting and tentatively at the DSTF