

## RETURNS WORKING GROUP- IRAQ

- ❖ **Meeting Date:** 30 August 2022
- ❖ **Meeting Time:** 11:00 am-13:00 pm
- ❖ **Location:** IOM Conference Room, Erbil & Remote connection via Teams

**In Attendance:** SWEDO, INTERSOS, IRC, SCI, UNHCR, IOM, USAID/BHA, UNAMI-DSO, NCCI, USAID/BHA, DRC, GIZ, PRM - U.S. Consulate, General-Erbil, MSF, Samaritan's Purse (SP), Dorcas Aid International, DG ECHO, REACH, TdH Italy, IOM, IVY Japan, UNDP/FFIS, ZOA, CCCM Cluster, WAHO, and GIZ IQ,

### Agenda:

- 1) **Introduction and adoption of minutes:** Review of July minutes and follow up on action points.
- 2) **Context Update:** DTM ILA, Emergency Tracking Climate Induced Updates, CCCM Cluster Updates, RWG Field Updates.
- 3) **National Protection Cluster Presentation:** Protection Monitoring System Highlights-Round 6
- 4) **DSTWG Update:** DS Updates
- 5) **REACH ReDS Assessment Presentation:** Al Saadiya Sub-district, Diyala Governorate, Iraq
- 6) AOB

Action Points	By who
N/A	

- 1) **Introduction and adoption of minutes:** Review of previous minutes; Follow up on action points from the previous meeting
  - No pending action points.
  - The endorsement of the previous meeting minutes.

- 2) **Context update:** DTM ILA, Emergency Tracking Climate Induced, CCCM Cluster Updates, RWG Field Updates.

### DTM Displacement and Returns Update

*(Please refer to the full presentation link for further statistics)*

#### Integrated Location Assessment VII: Coverage

- Number of Assessed Locations: 3,717
  - 1,935 locations with IDP families (vs 2,792 in ML 126).
  - 2,154 locations with returnee families (vs 2,191 in ML 126).
  - 420 locations host both returnees and IDPs.
  - Difference between ILA and ML is due to excluding locations with fewer than 5 families.
- # of IDPs reached: 195,928 families, 97% of total. Camps are included.
- # of returnees reached: 827,205 families, 99% of total.

#### Informal Sites Assessment: Coverage

- 401 informal sites were identified with 5 or more families
  - 376 sites with IDPs
  - 27 sites with returnees
- Extended informal sites assessment was conducted in 192 sites where 15 or more families resided
  - 185 sites with IDPs
  - 9 sites with returnees

#### Recent Displacement Trends to Monitor: Drought-induced displacement

- As of June 2022, DTM recorded 5,767 families displaced due to drought, mainly from Qal'at Saleh, Al-Shatra, Amara and Afaq districts. The most prevalent environmental event was sand or dust storms, impacting all returnee locations and nearly all IDP locations (97%). Changing rainfall patterns affected around half of IDP and returnee locations (55% and 49%, respectively).
- In 82% of returnee locations reliant on agriculture as a major source of income, climate change and environmental degradation resulted in crop loss, livestock deaths or reduced fishing yields in the year prior, as well as in 59% of IDP locations.

### Discussion

- Question: Would you please share the matrices with us?
  - DTM: DTM's Integrated Location Assessment (ILA) 7 dataset (<https://iraqdtm.iom.int/ILA7#Datasets>) and ILA 7 Informal Sites Assessment dataset (<https://iraqdtm.iom.int/ILA7/InformalSites>) from the presentation. The datasets will be published on our websites, along with the reports.
- Question: Which organisation is conducting the research on environmental factors for displacement in the southern governorates?

- DTM: IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix is in the data collection phase of a climate vulnerability assessment focused on locations of origin to better understand drivers of environmental migration. As a significant portion of this movement occurs in southern governorates, the report will likely have this geographic focus.
- REACH: The ReDS assessments reveal that the defect agriculture, mainly limited access to water for irrigation. the on the For the ACF and REACH study on Climate Motivated Displacement in the Basra, Maysan, Thi Qar ,and Governorates Please find the link to the report below: [https://www.impact-repository.org/document/reach/324abb1a/REACH\\_IRQ\\_Report-ClimateMotivatedDisplacement\\_April-2022.pdf](https://www.impact-repository.org/document/reach/324abb1a/REACH_IRQ_Report-ClimateMotivatedDisplacement_April-2022.pdf)
- Question: Iraq has a long history of populace movements triggered by drought and environmental concerns. For more thorough consideration, has DTM collected historical information to study it? is in an over-decade pattern? or is it merely a recent trend that requires attention?
  - DTM: DTM has conducted some research on this issue, and we can share some IOM DTM data with you. Aside from climate-induced displacement, DTM has emergency tracking and has been collecting data since 2006. We may be missing historical data going back decades. But what we are seeing isn't aggravation of abandonment of agriculture and the data shows us that these are preliminary removals so it's not some migration. These sorts of factors indicate the deterioration of the situation we are seeing even if the historical patterns are relevant. In emergency racking, IOM has also published some data on migration which can also be shared with you. Also, DTM conducting a more in-depth climate vulnerability assessment which brings you exactly to what you are describing in vulnerability, its more focused on the southern governorates, which identify the locations of origin where people are being displaced from to try to get more information regarding what specifically causing people to move and what are the consequences of environmental events going on there and how this is affecting the migration.

### CCCM Cluster Updates: Camps Update

#### Camps Updates

- There isn't much to report on the 25 KRI camps managed by UNHCR. Following the development of the strategies, IOM and UNHCR will work on a voluntary return program in the East Mosul camps. Nonetheless, some preparations must be made prior to the start.
- In Duhok, the shelter upgrade is awaiting approval from the government.
- According to an article, approximately 1300 individuals left the camps in KRI in August. It appears that Yezidi families in Duhok camps are attempting to travel to Turkey and moving toward Greece. IOM and UNHCR are monitoring the situation to better understand it and to ensure that IDPs are aware of the risks of such irregular movement. The figures, however, have yet to be confirmed.

#### Informal Sites Updates

- Last Saturday we received eviction notice from Samaraa operations committee directed towards the households that have houses or shelters constructed in the area of operation and also finalized their return documents. The election plan is with four days' notice. We tried through OCHA and colleagues to follow up on the matter, Mr Abdullah is aware of the situation and he engaging the lack of clarities in Balad and Samaraa and trying to push for more time and to also understand what is the motive behind this evection threat, especially since July, we have seen a reduction in evection since the last group of five households left the site following a lot of pressure from the government.
- From the IOM CCCM side, we did a very rapid mapping according to the data on the households that received that evection threat. They either had shelters under construction or they already have shelters in the area of origin. Since the eviction notice was issued, we have seen three households left the site voluntarily however no forced evictions have been noticed until now. The deadline is until the first of September.
- On the Durable solutions side, our TRD program finished the first round of assessment on the situation and now they are moving to Samaraa, targeting 8 sites 4 normal and 4 informal sites working alongside CCCM team. Moving to east Anbar side, so WASH issues remain a gap, we are working to follow up with WASH clusters to have a mapping for all transition plans that might exist. And once we have a mapping completed, we are planning to have the follow-up meeting with the smaller group from OCHA observation, protection and WASH partners to discuss and agree on the way forward. Since the last round of registrations 60 household have registered. As for AAF, the last round of departure was on 8<sup>th</sup> of August, we have 34 households departing the site. The last round of registration was the last Thursday before this meeting in which 223 households were registered out of 257 households remaining in the site.
- The first round of registration through the TRD program was completed about a month now, so there is the second round of verification exercise on area of origin that will initiate next week. And through CCCM team there is a plan to register more informal sites in Sinjar Mountain. While in Kirkuk as some of you know that CCCMs have been conducted in the past year and interventions have been conducted in Hay Askary, and moving forward as we wrap up our interventions in Hay Askary area, we had a meeting with our TRD program to try to identify any durable solution project or programs that are in Kirkuk and that we would put channel to put the IDPs in Kirkuk in the durable solutions, we agreed on some follow-up actions and agreed in mid-September to see if we can start some small rounds of assessments in Kirkuk.
- In regards to Ba'aj evections, we were in contact with OCHA on the evections and the latest pattern and we are still waiting for them to provide the list of people who are under threat to see if we can push for more time from the authorities from the IDPs.

#### Discussion

- Comment from IOM: IOM has conducted a rapid assessment on the migration flow of Yazidi from Dohuk and DTM has relevant data linked to border crossing with Turkey. For further information please reach out to [iraqdtm@iom.int](mailto:iraqdtm@iom.int)
- Question: last week, DMCR Duhok announced that a German NGO will construct 20 houses in Shariya IDP Camp for those Yazidis who survived ISIS atrocities. Does IOM or other colleagues from Duhok know about the German NGO? How will this affect the return process for other Yazidis?
  - CCCM: Yes, the organization is called "Springs of Hope," according to my Dohuk colleagues. They have reached an agreement with DMCR and BCF to upgrade shelters for some vulnerable families. They've already officially started, and I believe the goal is 50 shelters. Following the massive fire of 2021, Shariya Camp's shelters were upgraded previously, and the government has decided to allow these 50 additional ones. For these shelters, the technical specifications established during the discussions on the overall shelter upgrade are being used. Given the small number of shelters, and the fact that DMCR/BCF is keeping a low profile by not announcing it much in camps.
- Question: There is a problem in this sector in Salahaddin, Tikrit District where about 5000 families having a gap with drinking water and WASH in general. So Mercy hands contacted the directorate of water resource in Salahaddin Government and they mentioned that the problem will continue for at least a year. Mercy hands have started to prepare a concept note for a sustainable plan and emergency plan. Now we need to initiate the emergency plan as soon as possible to provide the water for these families as their situations are getting really dire as now, they are seeking to buy water about 10\$ per 3000 liters of water each time they need it. So, we ask if IOM or other NGOs have conducted any studies in this regard?
  - CCCM: it would be great if the list of the households and their statutes as well as the locations of the sites was shared so IOM can look into the matter

#### **RWG Field Updates: KRI Field Updates**

*(Please refer to the full presentation link for further statistics)*

##### **Reverse returns from Sinjar**

- Since January 2021 and to Up to 17th of August 2022, DMCR has received 1108 requests from the families who want to re-admit to Dahuk.
- Out of 1108 families, 963 were interviewed, 839 families received approval to access to Dahuk and 265 were admitted to Dahuk camps
- The security situation was cited as the main reason to return as shown by the last events in Sinuni, the presence of different armed groups, and the instability in the region.

##### **Ninewa and Kirkuk field Updates:**

###### **Ninewa Property Compensation**

- Complicated application process; requires follow up with many government departments and costly
- Ninewa Court of Appeals was opened recently and started approving files, which eased the process
- Many files arrive to the audit department with mistakes (typos, wrong names, lack of stamps, etc.) which need to be corrected prior to receiving money
- In Jul 22, Ninewa was promised 137 B IQD as compensation allocation.
- MoF started transferring money already (batches), distribution in Ninewa is ongoing.

###### **Kirkuk Religious Leaders Conference**

- In 13 & 14 Aug 22, UNDP facilitated Kirkuk religious leaders conference in Erbil
- Representation included central and local authorities as well as religious representatives of all ethnicities of Kirkuk

#### Discussion

- Comment from UNDP: The social cohesion conference for Hawija and Sinjar was held with the intention of restoring the community's elements, such as religion and gender balance, to reduce community conflict and simultaneously concentrate on the needs of the community. Through its livelihood programs, UNDP supports small businesses that unite the communities.
- Question: Is the registration for the return grant still in place?
  - RWG: Yes. Only 10% of those who applied for the returns grant have actually received it; there are still 580,000 families in the backlog. MoMD will therefore occasionally release a tranche for 3000-6000 families. However, there is delay.

### **3) National Protection Cluster Presentation: Protection Monitoring System – highlights round six (May-June)**

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(Please refer to the full presentation link for more details)

**Key highlights here below:**

**Safety and Security**

- 8% of KIs report that the presence of armed and security actors is the main security issue among communities - (highest in Anbar with 20% and SAD 10%) and 4% of KIs report destruction of civilian property caused by armed actors as the second main issue (highest in SAD 19% and Diyala 10%).
- 18% of KIs report that safety and security incidents involving armed or security actors happen sometimes or frequently – The frequency of incidents is reportedly the highest in SAD (32%), Anbar (25%), and Baghdad (21%).

**Access to civil documentation**

- 52% of KIs report that some or most people are facing issues to obtain or renew their civil documentation - Prevalence of issues related to civil documentation reportedly the highest in Kerbala (95%), Wassit (74%), Anbar (71%), Erbil (70%), and Suleymaniah (67%).

**HLP issues**

- 44% of KIs report that some or most people face HLP issues - Prevalence of HLP issues reportedly the highest in Kerbala /Babil (100%), Wassit (74%), SAD (62%), Anbar (60%), and Diyala (59%).

The dashboard for the **Protection Monitoring System** has been updated with the results from the **6th Round of data collection (Second Round of 2022)**, which was conducted from May - June 2022. It can be accessed on the following [link](#).

**Discussion**

- Question: Could you elaborate more on the new form?
  - NPC: we are trying to make the new for as inclusive and comprehensive as possible. If you are interested, We will have a dedicated meeting to discuss this topic on the 31th of August 10-11 AM. Going forward, the tool will be updated and adapted to reflect all population groups in Iraq and wider range of protection issues as it will be no longer limited to the NPC mandate and the HRP.

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**4) DS Updates: DSTWG, and ABC Updates**

(Please refer to the full presentation link for further details)

**General DSTWG and DSTF Updates**

**DSTWG (10 August)**

- Housing and HLP: Compensation Guidelines Endorsed and shared with ABCs. ToR of the Subgroup extended for a further 12 months
- Working group on the Livelihoods sub-group presented on the TOR and mandate. ToR finalized and circulated will be endorsed at the next DSTWG meeting and call for membership will follow.

**DSTF updates (24 August)**

- Funding concerns for organizations, fundraising for dedicated focal points, resource mobilization
- Discussion on the possibility of an ABC in Dahuk, existing structures in Dahuk, the approach needed to be taken, discussions with authorities

**ABC Updates—Deep Dives**

- **Sinjar ABC:** Tel Qasab & Tal Banat May 30, 2022, [link](#)
- **East Anbar:** Al Garma, Al-Khairat and Al Sijir Aug. 2022, [link](#)
- **Ba'aj ABC:** Sakar, Resala and Hamdaniya Aug 2022, [link](#)
- **Salah al-Din ABC:** Baiji, Al-Siniya July 20, 2022, [link](#)

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**5) REACH ReDS Assessment Presentation: Al-Saadiya Sub-district, Khanaqin District, Diyala Governorate, Preliminary Findings Presentation, Iraq**

(Refer to the Presentation link for more details)

#### Assessment Methodology:

- Multi-sectoral assessment tool, which combined qualitative and quantitative data.
- Data collection was done remotely by phone between 13 and 20 June 2022.
- Purposive sampling methods were employed to identify KIs. Findings should therefore be considered as indicative.
- Methodology based on key informant interviews (KIs).

#### Access to Durable Solutions Assistance: The top four frequently reported activities/projects implemented:

- Water, sanitation and hygiene,
- Livelihoods,
- Reconciliation and social cohesion, and
- Housing rehabilitation.

Access to Housing and Type of Tenure: The majority of households reportedly had housing, land, and property (HLP) documents proving ownership. Families with alleged links to ISIL were commonly reported as being at higher risk of eviction compared to other vulnerable groups.

#### **Reported Proportion of Damaged Housing 33%-42%**

#### Access to Livelihoods: The three most reported challenges were:

- Lack of job opportunities across various sectors, mainly affecting the youth;
- Lack of support from the local government towards the reactivation of agriculture; and,
- Lack of public sector jobs available.

#### Discussion

- Comment from DTM: it seems that a lot of the evictions across the country are on a very small scale as its eluded to the areas where they necessarily conduct these interventions and it doesn't seem to be any interventions on a higher level on financial assistant and there is also a need for a greater agreement between countries.
- Comment from UNDP: A impactful UNHDP initiative was the solar panel that powered the solar power for the water wells in some districts in Ninewa to avoid the draught.
- Question: What coping strategies were mentioned during the assessment? Can an organization adapt them to be applied in other places?
  - REACH: All of the coping strategies were negative, with the majority of them having an adverse effect on the household members or the environment. The implementation of initiatives to support livelihoods as well as government initiatives to set up factories and workshops were included in the suggested recommendation, though. When it comes to displacement and migration, youth are disproportionately affected.

#### AOB

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- During August, RWG delivered two Arabic introduction sessions on durable solutions, Nonetheless, given the limited number of slots, we regret that we could not select everyone. Nonetheless, we will keep a record of your application and consider you for future training opportunities in October. We will also be arrainging similar training sessions in English shortly and keep you informed.
- Next RWG meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2022.