DSTWG

13 December 2023

حلول دائمة في العراق Iraq Durable Solutions



DSTWG Monthly Meeting December

Agenda

- 1. Tour de Table
- 2. Action Points from the November Meeting
- 3. Over-view of 2023
 - o DSTF
 - o DSTWG and Subgroups
 - o RWG
 - o ABCs and ABC Lessons Learned
- 4. Discussion Roadmap and DSTWG Priorities
- 5. Discussion on Anbar IDP site (OCHA)
- 6. AOB







DSTWG 2023 Priorities

- Workplan Priorities
 - Priority 1: Addressing obstacles to Access to safety and security (Blocked Areas—Jurf Al-Sakhr, Hamdaniya)
 - Priority 2: Addressing obstacles related to Housing and HLP
 - Priority 3: Addressing obstacles related to Livelihoods
 - Priority 4: Addressing obstacles related to adequate basic service provision



DSTWG Priorities

Workplan Priorities

- Priority 5: Improved coordination and engagement with authorities at National and Local Level
- Priority 6: Support smooth coordination at national and subnational level
- Priority 7: Capacity Strengthening of partners related to durable solutions and DS approaches
- Priority 8: Enhanced understanding of durable solutions pathways (MoMD branches work on Local integration SOPs)
- Priority 9: Enhance support for joint resource mobilization
- Priority 10: Enhance government engagement at the national level on DS







Sustainable Livelihoods Subgroups

- Establishment of the Subgroup
 - Climate Resilient Livelihoods/Agricultural task force
 - Market Systems Development & Private Sector Development Task Force
- Challenges
 - Chair departure in September 2023
 - Subgroup activities



M&A Subgroup

- Monitoring Framework
- Expansion of membership
- Activity info training



Returns Working Group

- Information-sharing
- Advocacy
- Capacity strengthening of partners on DS





DSTWG

Hasansham Interagency Mission

- Took place between 13
 November to 22
 November
- Participating organizations included UNHCR, UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, COOPI, IOM, OCHA, RCO and DSTWG
- 12 Villages were assessed
- Report to be shared by 2nd week of December





ABC Overview

ABC Meetings

- Relatively good coordination until announcement of transition of the ABCs, positive engagement of government authorities
- Kirkuk, Sinjar, Mosul most consistent
 - Efforts---ABC Mosul work on Informal Sites
 - Interagency missions, Kirkuk, Sinjar

Challenges

faced for East &West Anbar, Salah Al-Din, Diyala

- High turnover with focal points also pre-announcement of establishment of JCFs
- Lack of funding for many org since end of 2022
- POAs progressing at different paces
 - West Anbar has been published in English & Arabic
 - Drafting hasn't been completed by some ABCs (Ba'aj, Diyala)
 - Limited capacity has been a constraint throughout the process

Transition

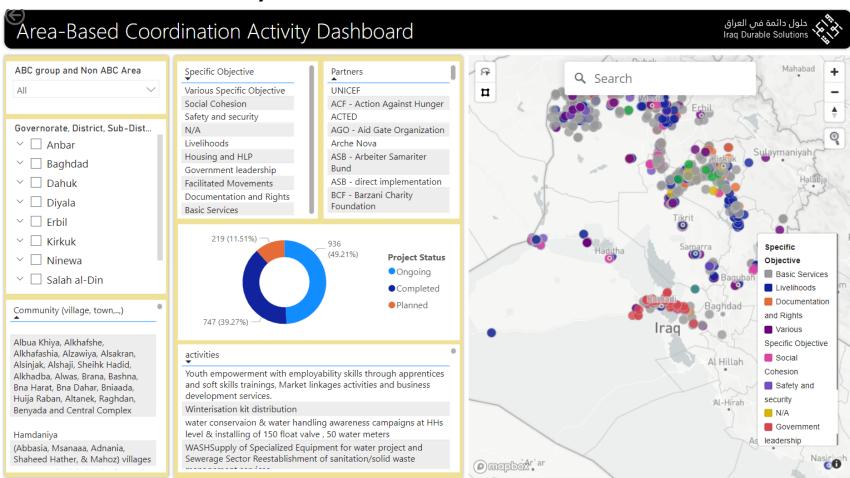
- DSTF endorsed the establishment of JCF in May 2023.
- A transition period of up to six months is in place to phase out the ABC teams.
- During the transitional period, ABC focal points will have seats in JCFs.
- The decision on the date of phasing out will be made by the ABCs.
- Sinjar and Baaj ABCs will merge to form a local-level coordination body.





ABC Overview

ABC – Partners Activity Dashboard



Dashboard Link







AREA BASED COORDINATION - IRAQ

LESSONS LEARNED EXERCISE

JULY - AUGUST 2023

OVERVIEW OF LESSONS LEARNED

- An Area Based Coordination (ABC) system was introduced in Iraq in 2020. In total, 8 ABC groups have been established across Federal Iraq
- In early 2023 the Resident Coordinators Office (RCO) notified the extended response community that the ABCs would be phased out by the end of 2023.
- A new coordination platform has been established between the Government of Iraq and the response community – the Joint Coordination Forum (JCFs).
- 50 participants in the lessons learned document. The interviewees included current and former ABC focal points, ABC partners, local authorities, donors, humanitarian coordination actors and people engaged in the support of the ABCs.
- This is **not an evaluation exercise** and involves a significant number of perceptions of actors from outside IOM.
- We aim to share these lessons as food for thought for the JCFs –
 who will have to reflect on their objectives and structure.

HISTORY AND CONTEXT

The drivers for establishing a durable solutions framework included the increasing view that the people remaining in displacement or who had recently returned were particularly

vulnerable and could not independently reach a solution without more dedicated support



PERCEPTION OF ABC GROUPS



- While the lessons learned was not an evaluation of the ABC groups, but participants discussed effectiveness in mobilising support for solutions.
- Should be commended for filling the significant gap created by the deactivation of the cluster system and the engagement with local government.
- Participants noted the much poorer coordination in areas with no ABC group in place. The ABCs provided a basic level of coordination for the aid operations and provided a platform for more focused discussions on advancing solutions, including with authorities.

The DS coordination system — including the ABC groups — has placed DS at the forefront of the inter-organisational response, but it has struggled to translate this into mobilising support for joint operational approaches to facilitate solutions.

- ✓ Increased a common understanding of DS objectives in the collective operational response
- \checkmark Offered an additional coordination platform for topics outside of the clusters' responsibilities, and mitigated the impact of cluster deactivation
- X Led to a measurable change in programmatic approaches
- X Led to a measurable increase in solutions for displaced persons

Key Issues

Assessing the context for solutions coordination

Collaborating between national and subnational levels

Developing and maintaining a functional ABC system

ASSESSING THE CONTEXT FOR SOLUTIONS COORDINATION



- Recommendation 1: Determine and confirm your scope of work. This will enable critical decision making to:
- Inform coordination and assess operational capacity required.
- Improve communication around the function of the coordination group
- Establish membership criteria and manage expectations
- Recommendation 2: Conduct a solutions assessment, mapping potential solutions

A solutions first analysis would allow the coordination system to review what issues could reasonably be advanced at a local level through any area-based approach and which would need to be addressed at a national level.

- **Situation 1:** An area needs a set of programmatic interventions to create the conditions for people to access their solution e.g. return. This can be addressed at an area level.
- **Situation 2**: A group has a specific set of security and national barriers to solutions. This must be addressed at a national level.

Recommendation 3: Map and test the assumptions that are being used – assess their likelihood and consider mitigation measures If they are not realised.

- Proximity to the field assumes that this is the correct level for better quality decisions
- The governments would be willing/able to take financial and operational leadership at a local level.
- Participation = collaboration.
- Funding for solutions could be mobilised.
- Political support for solutions could be mobilised.

Recommendation 4: Review and assess the presence and potential engagement with other coordination systems. The impact of humanitarian transition had significant bearing on the perception and evolution of the ABC groups.

Recommendation 5: Review the operational and coordination capacity available

- What is the realistic financial, logistical and access capacity of participating organisations?
- What solutions can be addressed using this capacity?
- What level and extent of coordination are organisations willing to engage in?
- What extent do agencies and organisations have the capacity to develop joint programmes and/or have the capacity to adjust existing programmes and projects.

Recommendation 6: Determine whether the ABC is a local level operational group to collaborate on operational DS planning, or a local-level open-invite coordination structure?

Recommendation 7: Establish clear criteria and expectations for membership

- Members should share a common vision:
- Engage with organisations that are willing to collaborate with each other:
- Members should be clear on their reasons for joining:
- Engage with organisations that are willing to collaborate with each other:
- Benefits of membership

Recommendation 8. Develop a communications strategy on the ABC to explain its purpose, membership and objectives. Given the shifting evolution of the ABCs and the expectations of the groups, there were a number of points of confusion that emerged (despite some aspects being defined in the ToR) including:

- the extent to which the ABCs would be replacing (or not replacing) the cluster system; the extent to which the ABCs would be replacing (or not replacing) the GCMs; whether or not ABC coordination required funding; whether or not programming in the ABCs would require funding and under what mechanism; the duration of the ABCs; the roles of focal point; membership; the level of government participation and inclusion

Recommendation 9: Ensure the name of the ABC group reflects the objective, using terminology that is consistent with other structures/objectives in place.

Recommendation 10: Ensure that ABC Focal Points are fully resourced to meet their objectives. While the most obvious step in resourcing ABC focal is ensuring that they are full time, focal points should have other support functions such as information management and a clear channel of communication to leadership structures. Focal points should be resourced and empowered.

Recommendation 11: Assess what solutions-oriented activities can be most appropriately advocated for at the area level. While the ABC groups were designed to facilitate dialogue and planning for solutions including options on return, integration and relocation; in reality, many focal points felt that it was more challenging to raise solutions with the local government that were not in line with the Government policy of return.

Recommendation 12: Regularly review tools and products to assess impact and purpose. There is a difference in the perception of the value of PoA verses more analytical tools like deep dives

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Recommendation 13: Consistency should be a benchmark in the performance of ABC groups. Each of the 8 ABCs had a different focal point structure and focus. They also met at different frequencies and had different objectives.



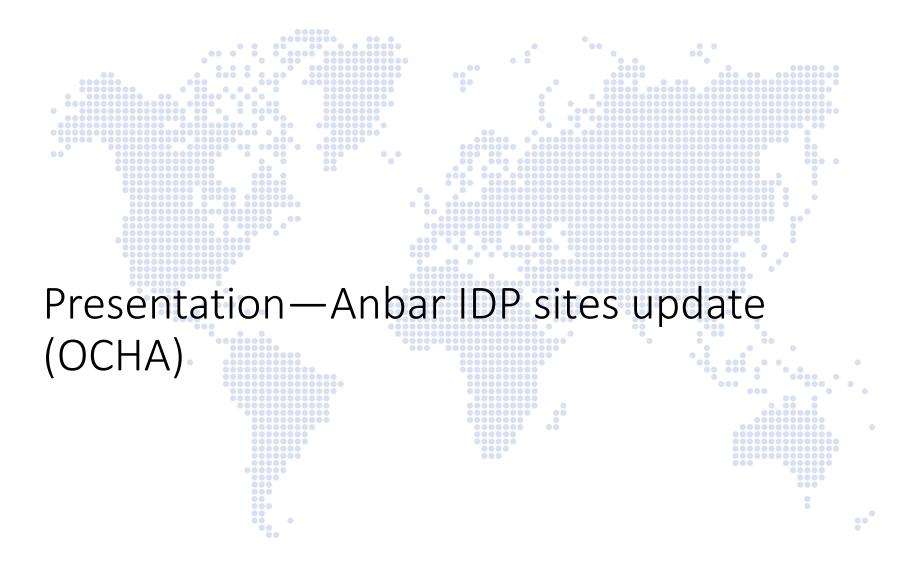
- Recommendation 14: Provide ABC groups with sufficient time to be established and make an impact. It is important that there is a reasonable timeframe to:
- Confirm and communicate the purpose of ABC groups
- Plan for and conduct the roll out ABC groups;
- Provide senior level support to embed the groups;
- Establish appropriate relationships with Government and other actors;
- Gather appropriate data and information on response needs;
- Assess programmatic change of partners (including local Government).
- Review and adjust the strategy as need.

Recommendation 15: Establish clear accountability and responsibility structures between national and subnational levels. A multi-tiered coordination system needs to have clear linkages between the levels, and clarity on how issues can be elevated up (or tasked down), who is responsible for making sure this happens, and who is accountable for making sure actions are taken. As noted above, there is a distinction between issues that can be addressed at a national level and issues that can be addressed at a local level.

Recommendation 16: Global capacities should be reformed to support DS and area-based coordination at a national and subnational level







Anbar Informal IDP Sites

10 December 2023



Background

Anbar hosts **18,882 IDPs (3,147 households)** living in different types of shelter but the majority are in transitional shelters (*Tent/Caravan/makeshift* shelters/mud or block houses/unfinished buildings)

According to the IOM's DTM 65% of IDPs are originally from Anbar and 35% from Babylon

The official camps in Anbar reclassified to informal IDP sites between 2018 and 2021 leading to a reduction of the humanitarian and government support to the IDPs.

IDP Sites Re-Classified from Formal Camps:

- Ameriyat Al-Fallujah (AAF) former camp
- 10 former sectors of Bzebiz former camp

Large and High Visibility Informal IDP Sites:

(Purposely built or designated to the government employees but used by IDP)

Kilo 7 apartment complex

Small Informal Sites

(where multiple families self-settle in abandoned/unfinished buildings or tents)

- Damaged buildings in Kilo 9
- 4 sites in AAF that have never been part of the camp
- 6 sites in Rut'ba
- The complex of Phosphate company in Ka'im

Housing complexes built for durable solutions, hosting additional IDP

(majority of failed returns to areas of origin ended up in the UN-Habitat sites)

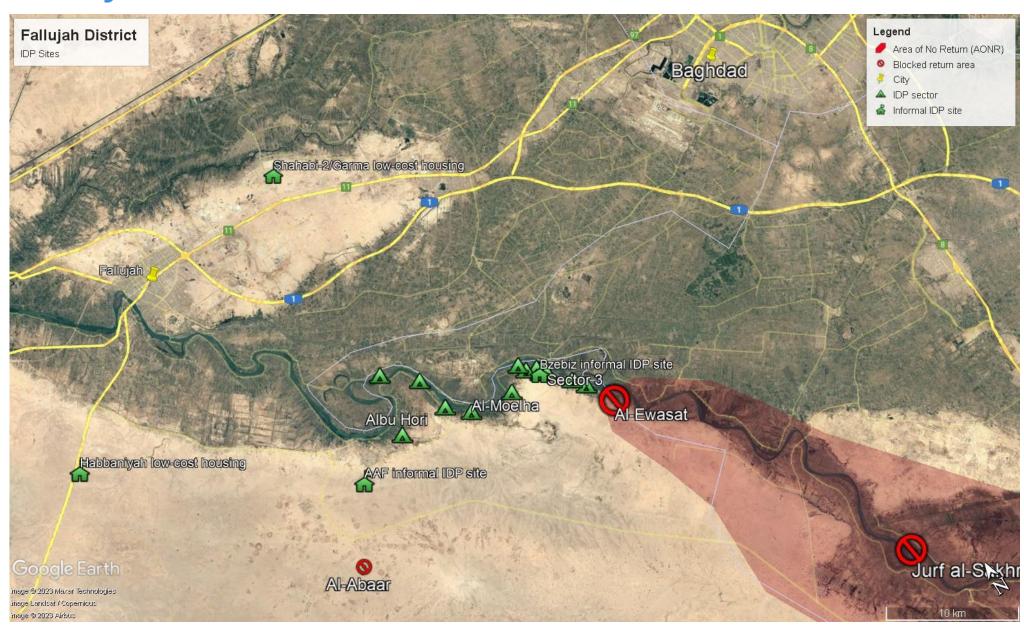
- Kilo 18 "al Karama" complex (built and handed over by UN-Habitat, mixed status of residents)
- Low-cost housing complex in Garma (built and handed over by UN-Habitat, mixed status)
- Low-cost housing complex between Habbaniya and Fallujah (Built by the Government for returnees, repurposed to host IDP from former HTC camp)

IDPs Overview

IOM's DTM Figures

| Location of Displacement | | | | | Total # of IDPs | |
|--------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Governorate | District | Location name | Latitude | Longitude | Households | Individuals |
| Anbar | Al-Ka'im | complex of Phosphate company | 34.33593631 | 41.19326271 | 7 | 42 |
| Anbar | Al-Rutba | Al Askaree | 33.03800189 | 40.30263444 | 57 | 342 |
| Anbar | Al-Rutba | Al Haara | 33.03761591 | 40.28426443 | 52 | 312 |
| Anbar | Al-Rutba | Al Wadi | 33.03966421 | 40.28365262 | 64 | 384 |
| Anbar | Al-Rutba | Antesar | 33.03126564 | 40.29901479 | 54 | 324 |
| Anbar | Al-Rutba | Hay Al Meethagh | 33.03197354 | 40.29047217 | 67 | 402 |
| Anbar | Al-Rutba | Rumilah Village | 33.06022091 | 40.34556629 | 30 | 180 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Bzebiz - Al-Amirya-Albu Jasim | 33.201389 | 43.9 | 20 | 120 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Bzebiz - Al-Amirya-Albu Jwad | 33.15082044 | 43.99869936 | 137 | 822 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Bzebiz - Albu Hori | 33.15845385 | 43.8916234 | 130 | 780 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Bzebiz - Albo Jaar | 33.14913484 | 43.98714161 | 47 | 282 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Bzebiz - sector 1 | 33.11973987 | 44.04292247 | 40 | 240 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Bzebiz - Al-Amirya-Al Hmedin | 33.15689845 | 43.93189961 | 97 | 582 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Bzebiz - Al-Amirya-Al Mouilha | 33.14119036 | 43.95571249 | 265 | 1,590 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Bzebiz - sector2 | 33.13481251 | 44.02670737 | 201 | 1,206 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Bzebiz - Ahl Al-Ramadi 74 | 33.14673327 | 44.01503204 | 78 | 468 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Bzebiz - Al-Amirya-Albu Salman | 33.15382888 | 44.00612418 | 155 | 930 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Bzebiz - Al-Amirya-Tal Ghatas | 33.18427359 | 43.92571116 | 46 | 276 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Bzebiz - Albu Dhaher-Albu Dhaher | 33.18863084 | 43.90689915 | 18 | 108 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Bzebiz - sector 4 | 33.145831 | 44.015278 | 137 | 822 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Bzebiz - sector 3 | 33.14162138 | 44.01803577 | 120 | 720 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Bzebiz - sector 50 | 33.14731684 | 44.01389114 | 83 | 498 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Ameriyat Al-Fallujah (AAF) | 33.14654372 | 43.84855916 | 115 | 690 |
| Anbar | Falluja | Al-shahabi-2 | 33.3822032 | 43.8862189 | 95 | 570 |
| Anbar | Falluja | low-costs houses/Habbaniah | 33.25546254 | 43.65109069 | 265 | 1,590 |
| Anbar | Ramadi | 7 Killo-al-mojamaa al-sakany | 33.4165942 | 43.1924283 | 550 | 3,300 |
| Anbar | Ramadi | 9 Kilo | 33.4096587 | 43.1680676 | 64 | 384 |
| Anbar | Ramadi | Kilo 18 / AL-Karama complex | 33.3885532 | 43.0969749 | 153 3,147 | 918 18,882 |

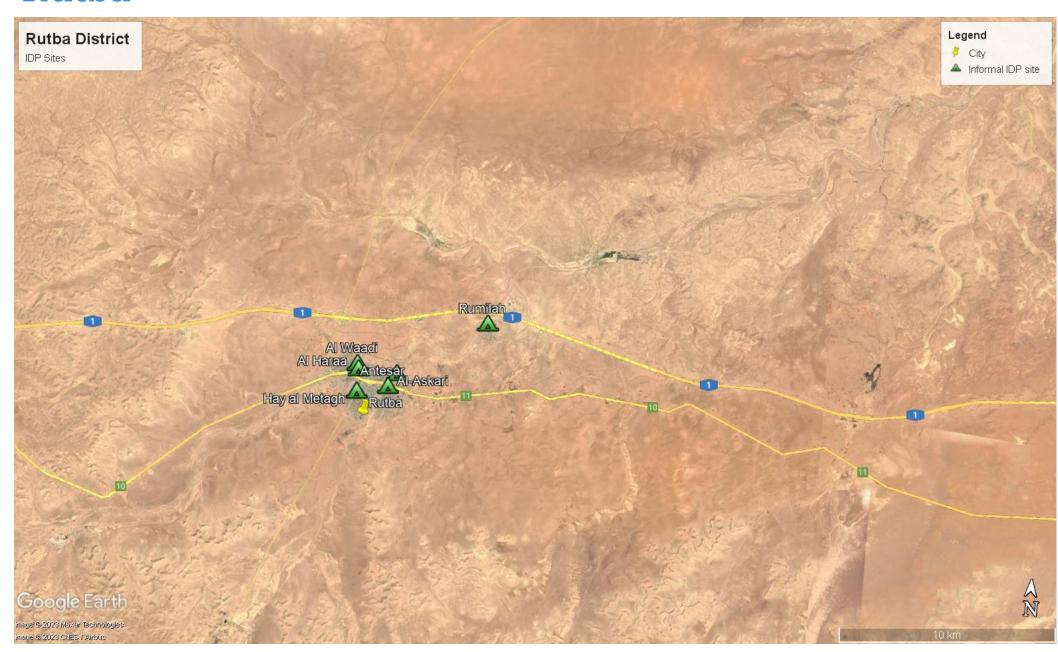
Fallujah District



Ramadi district



Rutba



Humanitarian support UN Agencies

UNHCR Supported the IDP sites for years with Shelter, NFI, and Protection services. As of January 2023, UNHCR decided to scale down the Shelter/NFI support and to continue the Protection services, primarily the legal assistance through its implementing partners. UNHCR successfully coordinated the efforts of the Civil Affairs Directorate and issued many civil documents in their displacement area especially those from blocked return locations.

UNICEF Supported the IDPs with Child Protection, Education, and WASH services. However, the WASH services concluded in January 2023 and the funding for CP and Education was notably reduced. The handover was done to the Directorate of Water Resources who did not fix the gaps or intervene.

IOM Supports the IDP with multiple services in most of the IDP sites. Their primary initiative is the Facilitated Return Program which facilitates the IDPs' return to their areas of origin. Additionally, IOM upgraded many shelters in the Kilo 7 complex and AAF. Furthermore, IOM clinics are in a few IDP sites enabling the IDPs to access good health services. Lastly, IOM received a new grant from BHA to start a new Shelter and CCCM project in the Kilo 18/Al-Karamah complex.

WHO Funds the national partners' health centers in IDP sites, however, the funding was reduced, and many modalities were changed to whether a mobile or closed center entirely.

Humanitarian support

International NGOs

DRC Supported the IDPs in Bzebiz and AAF IDP sites for many years through Protection, CCCM, WASH, and Shelter Upgrades. DRC operations in Anbar concluded in October 2023 including Anbar office closure. DRC worked hard on closing all pending legal and case management cases to avoid leaving their beneficiaries behind.

Mercy Corp Supported the IDPs for many years through Water Trucking, Hygiene Kits, Spare Parts, Desludging Services, and Solid Waste Management. Nevertheless, Mercy Corps concluded its WASH project in September 2023 and closed Anbar Office in the same month. Mercy Corps conducted meetings with relevant directorates to handover its services but the limitation in the government capacity is the key issue to take over.

IRC in partnership with UNHCR and ECHO, is actively providing Protection and Legal services to IDPs, returnees, and refugees in Anbar. The project is scheduled to conclude by April 2024, with the possibility of an extension pending donor approval. IRC is strongly engaged in legal services through direct representation as well as facilitating visits by governmental Civil Affairs Officers to IDP sites, where they can issue documents directly to those in need.

NRC is supporting IDPs through two programs, both of which are scheduled to conclude by April 2024. The ICLA project involves offering legal representation and protection monitoring services to IDPs residing in Anbar IDP sites. The Education project includes Formal and Informal Education and Life Skills and Social Cohesion activities.

Humanitarian support

National NGOs

Dary Is providing primary healthcare services and mobile medical clinics in Anbar until December 2023 with the possibility of extending most of the centers. The services target IDPs in the informal sites of Bzebiz, AAF, Habbaniya low-cost housing, Kilo 7, Kilo 5, Kilo 7, and Kilo 18.

UIMS The United Iraqi Medical Society (UIMS) in partnership with UNFPA is running a GBV center in Bzebiz informal IDP site until December 2023. The center provides awareness sessions, referrals, case management, and life skill trainings.

SSORD The Sabaa Sanabol for Relief and Development (SSORD) started recently a new UNICEF Education project in Anbar including Bzebiz informal IDP site targeting 10,000 children until August 2024. The project aims to open 7 strengthening classes (informal education), mechanisms to reduce school dropout rates through community integration, activate and support the Accelerated Learning Program centers in Anbar, manage the quality of learning in designated schools, establish a Parents and Teachers Council and supporting them with training, establish a protection system in schools, and implementing a PSS program.

Baghdad Women Association Is implementing a project in Kilo 7 and Kilo 18 IDP sites funded by OXFAM ending in December 2024. The project includes activities for women such as PSS, legal assistance, economic empowerment, business grants to women, and reproductive health awareness.

Government support

MoMD

The Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) is the key player in government service provision. However, their services are focused on Bzebiz and Fallujah low-cost housing only because of its IDP caseload from blocked return locations. MoMD recently took over some of the DRC's activities including rehabilitation of all Reverse Osmosis Units in Bzebiz, established a new 2km water network, and rehabilitated a domestic water station in Hay Athab sector. Furthermore, the MoMD hired five water station operators to ensure a continuous water supply. Lastly, to address waste management in Bzebiz, casual laborers and trucks have been recruited for waste removal.

In May 2023, the MoMD started building a new site in Bzebiz announcing the establishment of 1,500 caravans to occupy the IDPs in one organized site rather than being scattered in more than 10 km between Bzebiz sectors. However, the Ministry faced a media campaign that led to the cancellation of the establishment of the site but continued building the caravans and distributing them to the IDPs at their current locations.

The MoMD Minster visited Bzebiz four times between April and July 2023 which was accompanied by additional assistance to IDPs such as NFI, tents replacement, a new generator and ambulance, and refrigerators. Most of this assistance was allocated under the Chinese fund to the Iraqi government.

Government support

Line Minsters/Directorates

Partners in IDP sites are regularly approaching the relevant directorate to hand over their projects. However, the government's capacity to take over is always the excuse for not stepping in, in addition to their reliance on the humanitarian actors to provide the services is the main challenge to take over.

Directorate of Water Resources Mercy Corps approached the directorate notifying the project conclusion and requesting the directorate to urgently provide water to Kilo 18, Kilo 9, and Fallujah low-cost housing. The directorate's capacity is limited and can provide one water truck a day to Kilo 18 which will not be enough for 5-10 households. IOM approached the directorate for Kilo 18 IDPs again, a pipe is being constructed to deliver water to the neighboring village, and the directorate is promising to resolve the issue.

Directorate of the Municipality Is not collecting the garbage from most of the IDP sites due to limited capacity. Although DRC made collection points in Bzebiz and offered rehabilitation of garbage trucks, the directorate does not have the capacity to take over Bzebiz's responsibility. The gap remains in Kilo 18 and AAF while the Fallujah directorate agreed to take over the Fallujah low-cost housing responsibility and MoMD is temporarily removing garbage in Bzebiz.

Directorate of Electricity In Bzebiz, AAF, and Kilo 18, the directorate is not providing enough support to the IDP sites. NGOs approached the directorate in Bzebiz to take over the responsibility, but the directorate does not recognize the power grid that has been made by humanitarian actors because it does not meet their standards.

Gaps identified

Water Provision Water is the priority of IDPs in all Anbar sites. In Bzebiz, the IDPs suffered from inconsistency in water provision after the conclusion of UNICEF's WASH project but this recently was resolved by MoMD after recruiting 5 staff from the MoMD's budget. It's noteworthy that MoMD services are usually cut due to delays or irregular distribution/support to IDPs. In Kilo 9, Kilo 18, and Fallujah low-cost housing the IDPs are facing significant challenges to access water. Mercy Corps used to deliver water through water trucks and with its project conclusion the IDPs are purchasing water or paying for repairing the existing network to receive water.

Shelter conditions The majority of shelters in IDP sites are transitional shelters that require regular upgrades and maintenance. UNHCR was the key shelter actor who used to replace tents whenever it's damaged or during fire accidents, but UNHCR stopped its shelter intervention in January 2023. MoMD provided tents to Bzebiz IDPs and is constructing new caravans to be distributed to IDPs at their location of displacement. However, the IDPs in Kilo 18 are suffering from their damaged shelters and those in Kilo 7 are living in damaged apartments.

Health Services Although a few partners are providing health services, it's limited to primary health care. Many IDPs must travel over 20-30 km to access hospitals with secondary health care or laboratory services which are in some cases limited and challenging to access.

Civil Documentation Although many partners have worked on issuing civil documents and organized missions from the Civil Affairs Directorates to IDP sites IDPs from other governorates are encountering serious challenges to issue new documents. The government's regular and complicated procedures in addition to the high cost of document issuance made it difficult for IDPs to get new documents even with the officers' missions to IDP sites.

Gaps identified

Solid Waste Management UNICEF partners, Mercy Corps, and DRC worked on removing the garbage from the start of displacement until October 2023, MoMD took over the garbage removal responsibility but it's uncertain if they have the capacity to continue for a long period.

Electricity Maintenance Since the IDPs are living in unorganized infrastructure, they require regular maintenance of the power grides and connections to the IDP shelters. Currently in a few locations, the humanitarian actors are maintaining the power grid, however, in Kilo 7 IOM's CCCM concluded their activities in September 2023 and in Bzebiz DRC also concluded in October 2023 which imposes the IDPs to a high risk of electrical faults and shocks.





THANK YOU!

Any other business

THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

