

RETURNS WORKING GROUP- IRAQ

- ❖ **Meeting Date:** 26th of October
- ❖ **Meeting Time:** 11:00 am-1:00 pm
- ❖ **Location:** Microsoft Teams

In Attendance: IOM, IRC, UNDP, CCCM Cluster, SWEDO, Dorcas, UNHCR, Hawa'a Org., NL Embassy, USAID/BHA, Daryhuman, OCHA, MAG, International Medical Corps, NCCI, FCDO, US Consulate General-Erbil, ICRC, REACH

Agenda Items:

- 1) **Introduction and adoption of minutes:** Review of previous minutes; Follow up on action points from previous meeting
- 2) **DTM and CCCM Context Updates:** DTM new master list, return index, ILA and informal sites and CCCM Cluster, camp update and informal sites
- 3) **ACTED Presentation:** Mosul and Telafar Informal Sites: Profiling and Intentions
- 4) **DSTWG Update:** DS Updates
- 5) **AOB**

Action Points to follow up by next meeting:

Action	By who

Key Discussion Points/ Action:

- 1) **Introduction and adoption of minutes:** Review of previous minutes; Follow up on action points from previous meeting

- Overview of the previous meeting minutes and today's meeting agenda.
- No pending action points

- 2) **Context update:** DTM and CCCM Context Updates

(Presentations attached for more details)

DTM – Master list (Displacement and Returns Update), Return Index, Displacement Index, Informal Sites

Master List: August – September 2021

- Number of returnees: 4,939,074
 - 2,171 locations assessed
 - Increased by 54,462 since last round
 - This increase is much bigger compared to last round, while the data collection cycle has changed from 3 months to 2 months

- Reasons for this significantly higher increase include a higher number of locations assessed in Anbar which were previously inaccessible
- Number of IDPs: 1,189,581
 - 2,842 locations assessed
 - Number of IDPs has decreased by 1,889 since last round
 - This decrease is lower than the previous round of data collection

Return Index Round 13

- Number of returnees 4,934,946 returnees
- 2,157 locations assessed
 - Increased by 76,824 compared to previous round
 - An additional 29 locations were assessed, mainly in Anbar

Overall Severity

- 2,157 locations assessed
- 12% living in high severity (582,932 returnees)
 - This is an increase of 80,898 returnees since the last round
 - Largest increase was recorded in Anbar (40,032) due to the increase in the number of locations assessed.
 - These locations were classified as high severity due to extensive residential destruction, concerns surrounding harassment at checkpoints, and restricted movement
 - Significant increase also reported in Salah al-Din (30,252)
 - Mainly in Shirqat district, due to increase in number of security actors present, blocked returns, illegal occupation of homes, and concerns about harassment at checkpoints
- 38% living in medium severity (1,882,014 returnees)
- 50% living in low severity (2,460,000 returnees)

Hotspots per governorate

- 31 hotspots identified across Salah al-Din, Ninewa, Anbar, and Diyala
 - 1 new hotspot – Al-Dujeel Centre in Salah al-Din
 - Added due to deterioration in water access, and reported need for community reconciliation

Displacement Index

- Tool designed to measure the severity of conditions in locations of displacement
 - Working on short report to present this
- Data collected quarterly through RARTs and key informant interviews
- Data collection for round 1 took place during March and April 2021 across 18 governorates, 94 districts, and 1,972 locations
- Based on 17 indicators across 5 domains: Infrastructure and services; safety and security; livelihoods; social inclusiveness; and housing

- Examines relationship between the domains and their indicators, obtains scores that capture the relevance of each indicator for a certain domain, and the importance of each domain for the overall index
 - Housing is the domain which has the highest impact on the overall measure of living conditions of IDP families, followed by infrastructure and services
- Findings show that out of 1,972 displacement locations assessed, 370 present severe conditions (17% of the assessed IDP population)
 - Governorates with the highest overall number of IDPs in severe conditions are Ninewa, Salah al-Din, and Anbar
- 20 hotspots identified across 8 governorates
 - 4 of these ranked as very high in terms of overall severity: Al-Alam (Salah al-Din); Markaz Tuz Khurmatu (Salah al-Din); Al-Amriya (Anbar); and Al-Shamal (Ninewa)
- Less than half of the families were able to meet basic needs in 81% of sites in ILA 6, compared to 41% of sites in ILA 5
- Report also identifies districts of origin for IDPs in informal sites, and districts of last displacement for returnees

ILA Informal Sites

- Report to be published next week based on data from ILA 5 and ILA 6 this year
- ILA 6 showed decrease in number of informal sites by 15%, and slightly smaller decrease in population in informal sites
 - Decrease driven by decrease in number of sites and population in Duhok and Salah al-Din

Discussion

- Question: Why do some locations, such as Duhok and Erbil, not appear on the Displacement Index?
 - They are included in the data collection and will be in the report. They were just not displayed in the presentation as only the locations with the highest severity were noted for the presentation, while Duhok and Erbil are classified as medium and low severity
- Question: Is there any analysis of the profile of the people who are in the informal sites?
 - Yes, in the report there is socio-demographic data on locations

CCCM Cluster Update

Recent Camp Activity

- Online posts by MoMD regarding camp closures in Jeda'a 5 and AAF, noting intentions to close in the next month. This seems like a reiteration of their existing intentions from this time last year
- Similar communication as given by Ninewa Operations Commander in Jeda'a 5
- No concrete plans yet, and CCCM will continue to monitor the situation

Informal Sites Masterlist – Key Figures

- 477 informal sites
- 17,416 HHs
- 103,005 individuals
- Slight differences with DTM data is due to CCCM's slightly wider application of the definition of informal sites

Overview

- Sites are dispersed across 44 districts and 17 governorates
- Slight decrease of overall population living in informal sites compared to 2020, from 104,000 to 103,000
- Average site size is 37 HHs nationally, but varies significantly between governorates (118 HHs in Anbar, 43 HHs in Ninewa, 20 HHs in Duhok)
 - Larger sites in Anbar are mainly due to formal camps being re-classified, as well as extensive secondary displacement

Informal Site Definition

- More than five HHs, living together as a group
- Families displaced post-2014
- Location not originally developed to host displaced people
- Sub-standard shelter condition
- Facilities shared between families, and likely sub-standard
- Basic services may not be available in the site, and if they are present, are commonly delivered and usually sub-standard
- No formal management from local authorities
- No formal (rental) agreement

Governorate Overview

- Highest number of sites and individuals: Ninewa, Anbar, Duhok, Salah al-Din, and Baghdad
- Ninewa: 130 sites, 32,292 individuals
 - Increased by about 6,000 individuals, particularly in Sinjar, where population increased by almost 5,000 individuals. This is likely linked to a high number of returns and re-displacement in the area
- Anbar: 30 sites, 20,661 individuals
 - Increased by about 1,500 individuals, primarily due to re-classification of formal camps, formal camp closures, evictions, and the subsequent secondary displacement
- Duhok: 160 sites, 19,398 individuals
 - Population decreased due to returns from Duhok to Sinjar
- Salah al-Din: 55 sites, 11,856 individuals
 - Population decreased by about 5,000 individuals, partly due to eviction of some informal sites during camp closures, as well as returns
- Baghdad: 35 sites, 7,980 individuals
 - Increased by about 5,000 individuals, likely driven by secondary displacement after camp closures and re-classification, as well as improved identification of site locations)

District Overview

- 68% of individuals living in informal sites live in seven districts (16% in Sumail in Duhok, 14% in Al-Falluja in Anbar, 12% in Sinjar in Ninewa)
- 52% of the informal sites are in 5 districts (27% in Sumail, 7% in Mosul, 6% in Kirkuk, 6% in Sinjar, and 5% in Zakho).

Shelter Types

- 34% of sites consist solely of unfurnished or abandoned buildings
- 27% of sites consist of mud or block structures
- 57% of sites are comprised as either tents/makeshift shelters, mud or block-structures, or a combination of the two

Individual vs Clustered Sites

- 60% are clustered groups of sites
 - 48% of these are in Duhok and Ninewa
- 40% are individual sites
 - Highest number of sites are in Ninewa (12%) followed by Salah al-Din (8%)

Informal Site Linkages

- Exploring how CCCM can inform durable solutions prioritization and programming
- Developing site profiling mechanism to share with DS coordination and actors
- Contributing to Plans of Action and ensuring linkages with area-based coordination
- Sharing information at governorate/local level

Discussion

- Question: Can you elaborate on the clustered/individual typology? Is there a reason to differentiate between the two?
 - Agencies are trained in identifying whether sites exist in isolation, or whether there are multiple smaller sites located within the same area and can therefore be identified as a single site
 - When smaller sites are close together, they can share resources and access them as a collective. It's useful to identify locations where this is taking place
 - It's useful to identify locations which work together as a site. More of an observational distinction

3) ACTED Presentation: Mosul and Telafar Informal Sites: Profiling and Intentions

(Presentation attached for more details)

Assessment Overview

- To define urgent needs of residents of informal settlements and inform the humanitarian community
- Identify potential durable solutions based on intentions of displaced people living in informal sites
- 30 informal sites assessed, comprising 1,952 HHs
 - 12 in Telafar (4 in Al-Ayadhia sub-district, 3 in Zumar sub-district, 5 in Rabi'ah sub-district)
 - 18 in Mosul District Center (5 in West Mosul, 13 in East Mosul)
- Assessment conducted at HH level from June to October 2021

Sites Profile

- Telafar: 99% IDPs, 1% host community
- Mosul District Center: 95% IDPs, 5% returnees
- 55% self-settled sites, 25% cluster of collective centers + self-settled sites, 14% collective centers, 6% dispersed settlements
- 53% at no risk of eviction, 30% at no immediate risk of eviction, 17% at risk of eviction
- The most common shelter typology was unfinished or abandoned buildings (34%)
- Most common districts of origin were Telafar (44.62%), Hatra (23.16%), and Mosul (13.62%)
 - 72% of residents of informal sites in Telafar district came from Telafar district
 - 29% of residents of informal sites in Mosul district came from Mosul district
- In Mosul, 28% of arrivals to informal sites came before 2014. This is compared to only 1% in Telafar, as the majority (80%) came between 2017 and 2019
- 69% of informal HHs assessed were previously displaced in camps
- Main reasons for settling in the site were the location of the site, livelihood opportunities, and presence of family/relatives

Intentions and factors influencing movement intentions

- 98.66% reported intentions to stay at the site for the next 3 months
- 97.78% reported intentions to stay at the site for the next 12 months
- 60% stated that they have no intention to return in the future, compared to 37% who stated that they do have this intention
 - Lower intention to return for HHs currently living in Mosul city
 - Over 70% of HHs who are from Tilkaif expressed their intention to return in the future
- 34% of female heads of households expressed desire to return to their AoO in the future, compared to 39% of male headed households
 - % is higher than men in Al-Ayadiyah sub-district (52% for women compared to 45% for men)
 - % is also higher than men originally from Shikhan district (38% for women compared to 14% for men)
- 62% of HHs don't know what they would do in case of eviction, as it's difficult to decide until they are directly under threat
- Main obstacles to return:
 - Rehabilitation/reconstruction of homes (20%)
 - Increased safety and security in the AoO (17%)
 - Accessible basic services (15%)
 - Livelihood opportunities (13%)
- High need for shelter rehabilitation in Hamdaniya, Tilkaif, and Mosul
- High need for livelihoods support in Ba'ak, Mosul, and Tilkaif
- Improvement of basic services needed in Ba'aj and Sinjar
- Legal assistance, including HLP, remains an issue in Shikhan
- Over 50% of residents from Shikhan, Sinjar, and Telafar reported security as being the most important or an important factor on the decision to return
- Over 50% of residents originally from Tilkaif, Mosul, Ba'aj, and Hamdaniya reported that security doesn't affect their intentions at all

- 95% of the population reported having sufficient information about the situation in their AoO
 - Women from Tilkaif, Shikhan, and Sinjar reported more needs for additional information about their AoO

Discussion

- Question: Can you share information regarding the process of developing your questions on intentions?
 - We tried to align questions with those already existing in Iraq in order to have comparable data, and pushed it further to be able to inform durable solutions actors
 - We started with normal questions regarding planned return, but then took it further by asking about their desire/hope to return. This enabled us to look more into how they feel, as opposed to the feasibility to return
- Question: Is there a list of sites under the risk of eviction available?
 - CCCM and protection actors maintain an eviction risk tracker in these locations, and this can be shared bilaterally
- Question: Are evictions issued by the local authorities, or owners of the informal sites?
 - Only one was issued by the landowner, and the rest were from local authorities. Most informal sites are on land owned by local authorities
- Question: Do we have detailed information about what exactly the basic services needs are?
 - We don't have disaggregation between the different types of basic services, as the survey would've been too long. As we have analysis at village of origin level, we can organize focus group discussions on it
 - CCCM Cluster added that REACH with CCCM Cluster is currently refining the assessment tool for country-wide Informal Site assessments that will include service and needs related data. Partners are encouraged to contact the cluster if there is any specific information needed and can also link requests to a CCCM partner that may have data including site profiles including key gaps.
- Question: The assessment showed that 50% of residents in Shikhan, Sinjar, and Telafar reported security as be the most important or an important factor on the decision to return. Can you provide more details about what type of security is being referred to?
 - We didn't break this down in the assessment, but we know it's mainly about population type. For example, people in informal sites in Sinjar are mostly Arab and are coming from locations which are now controlled by Yazidi forces, which creates a fear of returning.
- Question: Some communities in Telafar have been able to locally integrate. Are these coming from Telafar, or from elsewhere and authorities were open to having them locally integrate?
 - 72% of residents in Telafar came from Telafar, and similarities in background facilitates their local integration. For example, the relationship between the displaced community and the local authorities is very good as they are from the same ethnic tribe/background.

4) DSTWG update: DS Updates

(Presentation attached for more details)

DSTWG General Updates

- ToR revision: DSTWG + ABC circulated to DSTWG members + ABC focal points (deadline: 28 Oct.)

- Upcoming DSTWG meeting: Wednesday 3 November 2021

Sub-Groups Updates

- Housing and HLP: Membership call now closed. ToR will be finalized after full membership determined (Co-Chairs: UN-Habitat and IOM)
- Monitoring and Assessment: Outcome level framework indicator development ongoing
- Facilitated Movement: Toolkit is finalized, after review from CCCM
- TCC: Provided inputs to Sinjar PoA

ABC Updates

- Mosul – Activity mapping and gaps/needs mapping ongoing
 - Next ABC meeting: 8 November
 - Roundtable: 30 November
 - Key information on area of operations, priorities, location to be provided to local government by the end of December
- Other ABCs – Activity mapping and gaps/needs mapping ongoing

AOB