

## RETURNS WORKING GROUP- IRAQ

- ❖ **Meeting Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2017
- ❖ **Meeting Time:** 11:00-13:00 hrs
- ❖ **Location:** Erbil (IOM Conference Room, English Village Villa 309) w/ VTC link to Baghdad, UNHCR Conference Room

**In Attendance:** National Protection Cluster, UNOPS/ IDP Call Centre, NRC, CARE, Relief International, Human Appeal, IOM, IRCS, Shelter Cluster, COOPI, MSF, REACH Initiative, OCHA/ AWG, OCHA/ ICCG, UN HABITAT, HLP Sub Cluster, CwC Task Force, HEKS, CRS, CCCM Cluster, Emergency Livelihoods Cluster, GBV Sub- Cluster, UNICEF, ACF, World Vision, RI, GIZ, IMMAP, QANDIL, Oxfam, UNHCR, ACTED, WHO, UNDP

### Agenda Items:

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- 1) **Opening:** Current Status of RWG, Pending Tasks, Next steps
- 2) **Field Updates:** Updates from RWG Focal Points & DTM
- 3) **Intention Survey:** Presentation of initial Intention Survey, Future plans on additional intention surveys
- 4) **Multi- Sectoral Response Framework:** Presentation on Information Management Framework for Area Based approach, Discussion on Pilot areas for Area Based Approach
- 5) **Communicating with Communities:** Discussion on IDP messaging, proposed programming on IDP messaging
- 6) **AOB**

### Key Discussion Points/ Action:

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#### 1) **Opening remarks:**

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- The chair gave a background of the RWG, and the work done during the transition period between August- September 2017, and arrival of new chair.
- During the transition period, the RWG has been working with the CCCM cluster to conduct Intention Survey in Mosul, which was conducted between August and September 2017. The RWG has also been working with the CwC Task Force on IDP messaging, as well as developed the Multi- Sector Response Framework looking towards an area based approach to programming.
- The RWG is currently inviting partners to be co- chair for the RWG, and proposals for the co- chair will be endorsed by the plenary at the next RWG meeting.

- Partners were requested to provide information on the work they are implementing related to returns. A 4W will be shared in this regard for partners to provide their information.
- The RWG has received request from partners on the issue of secondary returns, as well as the current assistance provided in disputed areas. In addition, 150 villages have been retaken, hence information is needed on where has been cleared. RWG will work on this issue with relevant partners and provide update.

## **2) Field Updates:**

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- Salah- al Din: 600 families had returned from North of Baiji, and mines need to be cleared from the area. NRC currently looking to do HLP in this area.
- DTM (presentation attached for more details):
  - As of September 2017, 95% (2,166,624 Individuals) of returnees were residing in their habitual residence, 3% (74,766 individuals) were staying in private settings, 2% (40,650 individuals) were staying in critical shelters, and 330 individuals unknown in terms of residence.
  - Anbar still remains the governorate with highest return, followed by Ninewa.
  - On the trends, returns in 2017 are at 40%, same as in 2016.
  - Hawija and Shirqat/ emergency tracking- almost 30,000 individuals returned as of 8<sup>th</sup> October. Most probably returned due to fear of the border closing.

## **3) Intention Survey: (Presentation of initial results and future plans attached)**

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- The survey was carried out in 14 Mosul camps covering 4,926 households, from 15<sup>th</sup> August- 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.
- 55% (1,382 families) of those interviewed mentioned that they do not want to return home, while 102 families will be living with other families near their properties and only a few percentage will be moving to a secondary displacement.
- 85% of the IDPs who are not willing to return would prefer to stay and reintegrate in the current area of displacement as opposed to of moving to a secondary displacement.
- Decision not to return for some has been influenced by not wanting to interrupt the school year.
- Security situation and availability of services are the main factors which contribute to the decision of returning.
- Need to identify what kind of assistance to provide to people who do not want to return.
- The intention surveys will be rolled out to the rest of the country before the end of the year, and the results will be used inform programming.

#### **4) Multi- Sectoral Response Framework (MSRF): (Presentation on Information Management Framework for Area Based approach attached)**

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- The MSRF was developed in coordination with clusters, based on the increasing need to move away from targeting specific populations with lifesaving assistance, to Area Based Intervention for return and reintegration; while planning and linking for longer-term responses.
- The area based approach assessment is a subset of the MSRF, and aims to Inform evidence-based humanitarian programming and service delivery at the settlement level; Identify priority multi-sectorial needs of mixed population groups residing in these areas, Identify vulnerable subsets of affected populations and specific needs of these groups; Gauge the perceptions and expectations of residents regarding service delivery and reconstruction efforts; and Inform the design of an inter-sectorial response plan that considers short-term needs as well as medium to long-term recovery.
- Proposed pilot areas for the ABA are Mosul al Jadida municipality and Bashiqa town and surrounding villages. These areas were selected for the pilot approach given the Contrasting geographic context (large/urban vs. small town/villages), presence of mixed population groups, and presence of ethnic and religious groups. Pilot will be done in coordination with local authorities and with RWG partners.

#### **5) Communicating with Communities: Return Messages**

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- RWG has been working with the CwC taskforce to develop returnees messages, “Know before you go,” which will be disseminated in the areas of return.
- The messages seek to involve communities to provide information, and not just a one way tool.
- Dissemination of the messages is planned before end of November.

#### **6) AOB:**

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- RWG meetings will still be held once a month for now.
- Announced the Assessment Working Group (AWG) RNA training, which will be rolled out in various governorates based on increasing need.